Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. November 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(4563.)

F.O.
424

PART LXVI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

October 1881.

119

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
1	Mr. Lascelles ..	142	Sept. 20, 1881	Extraordinary Military Commissioners and Sub-Commissioners in Bulgaria. Decree putting an end to	1
2	„ „ ..	143	20,	Political prisoners in Bulgaria. Decree issued granting amnesty to	2
3	„ „ ..	144	21,	Channel of official communications between Porte and Bulgaria. Effects of difficulty respecting, as regards brigandage. Question respecting "Caisse des Orphelins" ..	3
4	„ „ ..	145 Confidential	21,	Relations between Turkey and Bulgaria. Letter received from Saïd Pasha by Prince ..	4
5	Consul-General Jones.	44	21,	Despatch sent by authorities of Hasskeuï to Prince of Bulgaria on his fête-day ..	4
6	„ „ ..	45	21,	Eastern Roumelian militia. Attempts of Bulgarian officers to get rid of their Russian colleagues	5
7	Earl of Dufferin ..	833 Confidential	25,	Continued imprisonment of Prenk Bib Doda. Has made a further representation at Porte respecting	6
8	„ „ ..	845	27,	Negotiations for payment of principal British creditors of Porte have reached a satisfactory settlement. Details respecting	7
9	Mr. Kirby Green ..	107	15,	Conversation with Prince Nicholas relative to complaints of Mussulmans of Dulcigno ..	8
10	„ „ ..	110 Confidential	16,	Reports of Montenegrins having joined robber bands in the Herzegovina. Conversation with Prince respecting	9
11	„ „ ..	112	18,	Excitement among Dulcigniotes. They are said to be encouraged by Dervish Pasha ..	11
12	„ „ ..	113	18,	State of the country. Impotency of the Turkish authorities. Incidents illustrating ..	11
13	„ „ ..	116	21,	Change in feeling of Dulcigniotes. Large deputation proceeding to Cettinjé to confer with Prince	12
14	„ „ ..	117	22,	Inclosing petition sent to him by some Dulcigniotes residing in Scutari. Action taken respecting	13
15	„ „ ..	118	23,	Burning of Orthodox church outside Prisrend..	14
16	Consul-General Blunt.	111	27,	Reinforcements being sent to Prisrend. Attempts of Dervish Pasha to induce mountain tribes to submit to conscription and census taking	14
17	Consul Sandwith ..	49	27,	Rejection by Porte of demand of Cretan Assembly for cession of half of customs dues	14
18	Earl of Dufferin ..	852 Confidential	Oct. 3,	Question of Rhodope villages. Has again called attention of his colleagues to ..	15
19	„ „ ..	855	3,	Condition of Crete. Representatives of Great Powers have agreed to call attention of Porte to, and urge cession of half of customs dues	15
20	„ „ ..	858	3,	Reports inclination on part of Porte to employ English gendarmerie officers more actively ..	16
21	„ „ ..	867 Confidential	4,	Holy Places in Roumania. Question mooted in Conference of Ambassadors. They do not seem inclined to take matter up	16
22	Consul-General Blunt.	114	4,	New grouping of districts in Albania decreed by Porte	17
23	Vice-Consul Blakeney.	21	1,	Insecurity in Epirus. Despatch to Lord Dufferin respecting	17
24	Mr. Lascelles ..	146	4,	Institution of a Bulgarian Council of State. Decree issued by Prince respecting ..	18
25	Earl of Dufferin ..	899 Most Conf.	10,	Great delay in getting through public business on account of the Sultan having everything brought before him	21
26	„ „ ..	900	10,	Russian war indemnity. Arrival of M. Thoerner at Constantinople. (See "Turkey: Finance")	22
27	Mr. Mason.. ..	..	10,	Servian Agrarian Law. Letter from five Turkish proprietors to Mr. Locock ..	22

No.	Name.	No.	Date.	Subject.	Page
28	Mr. Mason ..	..	Oct. 10, 1881	Servian Agrarian Law. Ottoman Envoy understands that an amicable arrangement will be come to	23
29	Consul-General Blunt.	116	7,	Brigandage in Macedonia. Surrender of a number of brigands, who have been brought to Salonica. They declare they surrendered on promise of full pardon	23
30	Earl of Dufferin ..	905	13,	Said Pasha complains of one-sided way in which Treaty of Berlin is being executed ..	29
31	Consul-General Blunt.	119	12,	Affairs in Albania. Dervish Pasha marching to Dibra at head of twenty battalions .	29
32	" "	120 Confidential	12,	Proceedings of Dervish Pasha at Dibra. Feeling of Albanians regarding the conscription .	30
33	To Earl of Dufferin ..	719	21,	British claims against Porte. Her Majesty's Government are glad to learn the success that has attended his efforts	30
34	Vice-Consul Blakeney.	23	15,	Unsatisfactory state of the country about Janina. Copies of two despatches from Mr. Kypriotis.	30
35	Earl of Dufferin ..	906 Confidential	13,	Further respecting difficulties in conducting public business. Conversation with Said Pasha	32
36	Consul-General Blunt.	121	15,	Persecution of native Protestants at Stroumnitza. Despatch to Lord Dufferin respecting ..	33
37	" " ..	123	17,	State of Sandjaks of Drama and Serres. Letter from Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla respecting	37
38	" " ..	125	18,	Brigandage in Macedonia. Inclosing letters from Monastir, as published in the "Levant Herald," respecting	37
39	Earl of Dufferin ..	929	21,	Deficit in Cretan revenues. Porte has agreed to surrender half customs duties	39
40	To Earl of Dufferin ..	724	26,	Unsatisfactory state of Crete. Approves his action respecting, as reported in No. 19 ..	39
41	Mr. Kirby Green ..	121 Confidential	14,	Participation by Montenegrins in outrages in the Herzegovina. Action of Prince Nicholas	39
42	To Earl of Dufferin ..	733	29,	Christian merchants of Janina. Have sentences passed on been commuted? ..	40
43	Mr. Lascelles ..	148	17,	Difficulties of Turkish landowners in Varna district in obtaining possession of their property	40
44	Mr. Locock ..	129	19,	Servian Agrarian Law. Letter addressed to Turkish proprietors in reply to theirs of the 3rd October (see No. 27)	41
45	" " ..	131	22,	Turkish Envoy requests that verbal promises made to him by Servian Government as to payment of sums adjudged to Mussulman proprietors may be placed on record ..	41
46	Earl of Dufferin ..	940	25,	Province of Dibra occupied by troops of Dervish Pasha. Submission of Albanian Chiefs	42
47	" " ..	941	25,	Turkish authorities in Macedonia have formally extended their authority over unceded villages of the Rhodope	42
48	" " ..	943	25,	Arrival of German Mission of Exploration in the East. Extract from "Turquie" ..	43
49	Lord Ampthill ..	426 Confidential	29,	Sultan continues to appeal to Germany for military instructors	43

Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. November 1881.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LXVI.

No. 1.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 142.)

My Lord, *Sophia, September* 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a Decree which has been issued by the Prince of Bulgaria on the occasion of his fête-day, putting an end to the services of the Extraordinary Military Commissioners and Sub-Commissioners whose appointment I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 53 of the 19th May.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of the Report of the Minister of the Interior, bearing witness to the tact and ability displayed by these officers, and stating the reasons which have induced him to recommend this measure to His Highness. One of these reasons is the necessity of ascertaining how far the administrative authorities have been influenced by the example of how to guide and govern the people with impartiality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1

Ukase No. 757.

(Translation.)

WE, Alexander, &c., &c.,

In consideration of a Report of Our Acting Minister of the Interior, dated the 27th August, and bearing the No. 6056, have ordained and ordain:

That the services of Our Extraordinary Commissioners and Sub-Commissioners shall cease on the 1st September.

We consider it Our duty to express to all Our Extraordinary Commissioners and Sub-Commissioners Our complete satisfaction and Our gratitude for the manner in which they have succeeded in performing the difficult task imposed upon them.

Our Acting Minister of the Interior is charged with the execution of this Decree.

Sophia, August 30, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Colonel Remlinger to the Prince of Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Sophia, August* 27, 1881.

ON the 1st September the Extraordinary Commissioners of your Highness will come to the end of their four months' term of service.

Thanks to the tact shown by these officers, and the way in which they have succeeded in winning the confidence of the people, more especially of the rural population, without regarding the difficulties of the situation, and in many cases also the falseness of the position in which they had to do their work, they have succeeded in reducing the country to order without having recourse to coercive measures, except in two villages of the Widdin district, and in the towns of Rahovo, Nicopoli, and Plevna, where the rioters, skilfully urged on by opponents of law and order actuated by selfish motives, provoked the interference of the military, and even then without their having to use their weapons, excepting in the case of Rahovo.

The influence of your Highness' Extraordinary Commissioners has been so beneficial and so pacifying that it would have been desirable to leave the administration and the population of the Principality for some time longer under their influence. But various reasons, of which we cite only three, namely, (1) the desire of these officers themselves, long since wearied by the difficulties of their position; (2) the necessity of Commanding Officers returning to their military commands, without which the training of the troops would suffer; and (3) the necessity of ascertaining as soon as possible how far the administrative authorities have been influenced by the example of how to guide and govern the people with impartiality, have compelled me to beg your Highness, most humbly, to put an end to the services of your Highness' Extraordinary Commissioners and Sub-Commissioners on the 1st September of the current year.

If your Highness approves of this Report, I most humbly beg that you will deign to sign the Ukase presented herewith.

I am, &c.
(Signed) Colonel REMLINGER,
Acting Minister of the Interior.

No. 2.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 143.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September* 20, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a Decree which has been issued by the Prince of Bulgaria, granting a plenary amnesty to all those who are being prosecuted for political offences committed before the $\frac{1st}{13th}$ July, 1881, with the exception of those whose sentences have already been pronounced, and those who, through their political crimes, have inflicted loss or injury on private individuals.

I understand that no sentences have been pronounced for political offences, and that the reason for excepting those who had been sentenced was that it was considered that an amnesty should not extend to persons who had already been sentenced, and who could only be pardoned by an act of grace.

This Decree, which was signed on the Prince's fête-day, will have the effect of putting an end to the prosecution of M. Zancoff and the Liberal leaders in consequence of the electoral address to which I had the honour to refer in my despatch No. 140 of the 8th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Ukase No. 756.

(Translation.)

WE, Alexander, &c., &c.,

Conformably with the 15th Article of the Constitution, and section 1 of the full powers granted to us by the Great National Assembly of Sistova of the 1st July, 1881, have ordained and ordain:

1. That a plenary amnesty be granted to all those who are on their trial or are being prosecuted for political offences committed between the 27th April and 1st July, 1881.

2. That this amnesty be extended also to all those who are on their trial or are being prosecuted for political offences committed before the 27th April, 1881.

3. That those who have been sentenced, and all others who, through their political crimes, have inflicted loss or injury upon individuals, be excepted from this amnesty.

4. Our Acting Minister of the Interior is charged with the execution of this Decree.

Sophia, August 30, 1881.

No. 3.

E *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.*—(*Received October* 3.)

(No. 144.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September* 21, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 133 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Nihad Pasha has informed me that, in consequence of the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to recognize the legalizations of the Bureau of Privileged Provinces, considerable hardship has been inflicted upon certain Turkish landowners in the neighbourhood of Varna, who have left the Principality and are now residing in Turkey. In order to obtain possession of their property, which since their departure has been taken possession of by Bulgarians, they had given powers of attorney, legalized by the Bureau, to their agents to act for them. As, however, the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople had refused to recognize the legalizations of the Bureau, they could not be made use of in Bulgaria. Nihad Pasha has called the attention of M. Voulcovitch to this matter, and pointed out the injustice of making the interests of private individuals suffer on account of a question of principle. M. Voulcovitch replied that he must decline to enter into any discussion with Nihad Pasha upon any question which his Excellency was not duly authorized to treat, and he reminded him that last year his Excellency was specially authorized to negotiate the question of the return of the refugees. M. Voulcovitch suggested that Nihad Pasha should be empowered to negotiate on all matters with the Bulgarian Government, but to this Nihad Pasha replied that the relations between the Principality and the Porte being those of vassal and Suzerain, rendered it impossible for the Turkish Government to appoint a regularly accredited Agent to Bulgaria.

The object of the Bulgarian Government in the action they have taken is no doubt to put pressure upon the Turkish Government to agree to the demands of Bulgaria with respect to the channel of official communications, but as it appears that in the present instance the lands belonging to the Turkish proprietors in the district of Varna have already been let to Bulgarians, Nihad Pasha has pointed out to his Government that there is no prospect of the Turkish proprietors obtaining possession of their property during the present year, even if the powers of attorney which they have granted should be recognized, and that therefore the interests of private Mussulmans are not likely to suffer more than they have done at present by the non-settlement of the question at issue between the two Governments.

The refusal of M. Voulcovitch to carry on negotiations with Nihad Pasha will have the effect of preventing an arrangement being come to upon a question which affects the interests both of Bulgaria and of Turkey, viz., the suppression of brigandage on the Macedonian frontier. In consequence of the complaints of the Turkish authorities in Macedonia of the asylum granted by the Principality to brigands who crossed the frontier from Macedonia, and of the impossibility of the Turkish authorities pursuing them in Bulgarian territory, the Porte had suggested that some means should be adopted to put a stop to the evil, and with this view they proposed about a year ago to the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople that one of the three following courses should be adopted:—

1. That the two Governments should send identical instructions to the local authorities to prevent brigands who were being pursued from crossing the frontier.

2. That an exchange of notes should take place, specifying the measures which it might be advisable for the authorities to adopt.

3. That the authorities on the frontier should be authorized to come to an understanding as to the best means of putting a stop to brigandage.

During the time that the Liberal Ministry was in power no further steps were taken, but General Ehrnrooth, when he was in office, suggested to Nihad Pasha that an arrangement might be come to upon the basis of an arrangement which was being negotiated between Bulgaria and Servia for facilitating the communication on the frontier. Shortly after M. Voulcovitch became Minister for Foreign Affairs Nihad Pasha addressed a *note verbale* to him reminding him of General Ehrnrooth's suggestion, but this note has remained unanswered.

Another important question affecting the rights of private individuals with which Nihad Pasha has had to deal is the question of the Caisse des Orphelins, an institution which takes charge of the property of orphans and allows it to accumulate at interest until the proprietor comes of age. After the war some of these Caisses were transferred from Bulgaria to Constantinople, but they have since been all, with one exception, returned.

In the month of June of last year, in consequence of an application by Nihad Pasha,

M. Zancoff assured him that the property of those orphans who had emigrated should, in accordance with the law, be sent to the Sheikh Islam Capousson at Constantinople.

In spite of repeated applications from Nihad Pasha, M. Zancoff's assurance has not yet been carried out, and the Bulgarian Government has excused itself on the ground of the want of proper organization, and the difficulty of finding employés to whom the management of the Caisses des Orphelins could be entrusted. Nihad Pasha has repeatedly pointed out that if the organization is sufficient to receive the money which is paid into the Caisses des Orphelins, it ought to be sufficient to make the payments which are due, and as this is a question which comes within his competence as Commissioner for the Vacouf property, he has addressed a further note to M. Voulcovitch, again calling his attention to the injustice of withholding the payments which are due, and also of allowing the property of the orphans to lie idle in the Caisses, instead of allowing it to accumulate by being properly invested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 4.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 145. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September* 21, 1881.

ALTHOUGH the account given in my preceding despatch shows that the official relations between Bulgaria and the Porte are on a very unsatisfactory footing, I have reason to believe that the Prince of Bulgaria has recently received a private letter of a friendly character from the Turkish Prime Minister.

After the decision of the Great National Assembly at Sistova M. Balabanoff was instructed to return to Constantinople to express to Saïd Pasha the Prince's thanks for the support which he had received from the Mussulman population in the Principality, and to request him to convey the expression of His Highness' gratitude to the Sultan.

The Prime Minister thereupon wrote the letter to the Prince to which I have referred, and the Sultan sent for M. Balabanoff and caused him to be informed that His Majesty approved the action which His Highness had taken.

I understand that the Prince is anxious that it should not be known that he has received a letter from Saïd Pasha, and that the secret has been hitherto so well kept that there are not more than half-a-dozen people at Sophia who are aware of its existence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 5.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 21, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship the substance of a despatch sent by the authorities of Hasskeuï in this province to the Prince of Bulgaria on the occasion of his fête-day—11th September—and the reply given to the same through M. Voulcovitch, his Minister for Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency the Governor-General wishes these despatches to be brought to the notice of the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople, to the end that they may induce the Porte to represent to the Bulgarian Government the disorder which may arise in this province from the encouragement thus given to insubordination and sedition on the part of the local officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure in No. 5.

The Mayor of Hasskeuï to the Prince of Bulgaria.

(Traduction.)
Le Ministre des Affaires Intérieures à Sophia,

AUJOURD'HUI toute la population Bulgare de la Mairie qui m'est confié fête avec joie et enthousiasme la fête onomastique de Son Altesse le Prince de Bulgarie, avec l'espoir que son sceptre fera la Bulgarie unie. Offrez donc l'expression de ces vœux aux pieds de Son Altesse.

Le Maire de la Ville de Hasskeuï,
(Signé) BERCOOSKY,
Lieutenant en Retraite.

M. Voulcovitch to the Mayor of Hasskeuï.

A M. le Maire, Hasskeuï,

Son Altesse notre auguste Souverain a bien voulu me charger de vous prier d'être l'interprète de ses plus profonds remercîments à la population de la ville de Hasskeuï pour ses félicitations à l'occasion de la fête onomastique de Son Altesse.

(Signé) VOULCOVITCH.

No. 6.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 45.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 21, 1881.

IN my despatches of the 2nd and 5th April last (Nos. 21 and 22 respectively), I had the honour to inform your Lordship of the efforts made by the Russian Consulate-General here to induce the Roumelian Government to sign contracts with the Russian officers serving with the Roumelian army, and the unsuccessful result of the same.

At the time when the Russian army was withdrawn from this province the number of foreign officers serving in the Roumelian militia was about 60, of whom 50 were Russian subjects. Six months later this number was reduced to 40, many having been forced to leave on account of peculation, insubordination, and other misconduct. At the present date 33 foreign officers are serving in the Roumelian militia, of whom 27 are Russian subjects.

By the provisions of the Organic Statute foreign officers can be admitted into the military service of the province only in the proportion of one-fifth of the entire number, making 26 in 132. There is, consequently, an excess of 7 at the present time.

In the local gendarmerie, which is not affected, however, by the above stipulation, the numbers of foreign officers are 14 Russians and 1 Englishman.

A lack of cordiality in the relations between the Russians and Bulgarians serving in the provincial militia manifested itself from the first organization of that force, due chiefly, it is said, to the supercilious conduct of the former, who do not attempt to conceal the low estimate at which they value their Bulgarian colleagues. The latter, whose promotion is retarded and salaries circumscribed by the redundancy of foreigners amongst them, are not slow to resent this treatment, and national distrust is quickened at the same time by the recollection of the part lately taken by Russian officers in the overthrow of the Bulgarian Constitution, and by the fear that a like fate may be destined for their own by similar means.

The Roumelian officers have of late frequently petitioned the Governor-General that qualified native officers should for the future alone be appointed to the command of militia companies, and the Permanent Committee has consented, by seven votes against three, to satisfy their wishes in this respect. When this Ordinance shall have been enforced 15 foreign officers (13 of whom are Russian subjects) will be superseded, and will probably leave the province.

To justify the above resolution, and meet the charge of ingratitude freely brought against them by Russia's partizans, the National party finds it necessary to explain that foreign officers were originally engaged to act generally as organizers and instructors, and

not to fill merely the regimental cadres. That it is not their wish to remove such qualified instructors, but merely to get rid of the surplus number of young subalterns who were foisted on the province during the Russian occupation, and whose place can now be equally well filled by native officers. That they willingly recognize the great debt of gratitude due to Russia for their deliverance, but Russian officials so continually refer to it to justify their interference in the administration of the province that they have made it a wearisome burden, and by their persistent support and protection of their countrymen against all charges brought against them they have so compromised military discipline, that the Permanent Committee has refused to sign any contract with foreign officers who will not consent to forego the immunities they claim as subjects of foreign Powers.

The present Russian Consul-General here, M. Krebel, has acted with much moderation hitherto in his endeavour to retain his countrymen in the service of the province. It is not expected, however, that he will succeed in reversing the above resolution of the Permanent Committee, based as it is on the popular wish and the provisions of the Organic Statute. He seems to have imagined, nevertheless, that its execution might at least be delayed by directly addressing those less enlightened constituencies where na appeal to their common orthodoxy would not fail to have an effect, as the priesthood here is still, as ever, Russia's humble agent and faithful servitor. Apparently with this view the Military Attaché of the Consulate-General, Colonel Eck, lately visited in full uniform certain districts of the province, and having called together the local Councils, prevailed on them to instruct their representatives in the forthcoming Provincial Assembly to retard, if they could not reverse, the above resolution of the Permanent Committee. He at the same time made an effort to learn the feelings generally prevailing in the militia on this question, under the pretext of holding a military inspection; but in this, I understand, he was less successful, as the officers in command refused to recognize his right to call the troops under arms for this purpose.

In view of the violent opposition which the measure in question is destined to encounter from the Russians and their party in the provinces, it can hardly be enforced, under any circumstances, before the termination of the next Session of the Provincial Assembly, which is to be convoked in this town towards the end of the coming month.

I shall not fail to inform your Lordship of the result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 7.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

E

(No. 833. Confidential.)

Constantinople, September 25, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 695 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have made a further representation at the Porte respecting the continued imprisonment of Prenk Bib Dodo.

Your Lordship will perceive from the inclosed Memorandum that, in speaking to Sir A. Sandison on the subject, his Excellency held similar language to that which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in the above despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Memorandum.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instruction of the 15th instant, I did not fail to speak once more to Assim Pasha on the continued imprisonment of Prenk Bib Dodo. His Excellency was sorry to have to repeat to me that a direct accusation which he much fears can be substantiated if there was any disposition to deal severely with the prisoners, having been brought against him by Dervish Pasha, it would be very much against Bib Dodo's own interest to go back to Albania under present circumstances.

The Porte wishing to be as lenient as possible to him, had repeatedly offered him

temporarily the post of a Caïmakamlik (District Governor) in Asia Minor, in view of allowing him to return to his native country in due course of time. But the prisoner, who is represented by Assim Pasha to be rather obstinate and "foolish," persists in wishing to go back to Albania at once, the effect of which will only be to afford Dervish Pasha the opportunity of renewing the accusation and asking for the trial of the prisoner.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, September 22, 1881.

P.S.—Assim Pasha added that Bib Dodo was not being treated like a common prisoner, and merely required not to leave the premises of the War Department where he occupies a room.

A. S.

No. 8.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 845.)

Therapia, September 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the satisfaction of being able to announce to your Lordship that the negotiations for the payment of the principal British creditors of the Porte, which I have already described in my despatches No. 783 of the 6th instant, No. 737 of the 27th ultimo, and No. 732 of the 25th ultimo, have now reached a settlement which has been pronounced satisfactory by the claimants; the Minister of Finance having undertaken to issue at once havalés to these gentlemen to the amount of two-thirds of the entire sum due to them, the remaining one-third to be given them within a period of two months.

I beg to inclose a Report from Mr. Marinich on the subject, as well as a letter of thanks from Messrs. Cuppa, whose claim, as your Lordship is aware, amounts (exclusive of a further claim for interest) to about 80,000*l*. From the language of Messrs. Cuppa your Lordship will see that these gentlemen regard the arrangement as an advantageous one.

The only two claimants on the list whose accounts remain to be dealt with are Sir Peter Tait and M. Timoni, the representative of the Varna Railway Company.

Sir Peter Tait, by his own choice, is endeavouring to come to a direct settlement with the Prime Minister, assisted by one of the Dragomans of this Embassy.

With regard to the claim of the Varna Railway Company, a hitch, I am sorry to say, has occurred, the Minister of Finance being inclined to contend that under the Xth Article of the Treaty of Berlin the settlement of the account in question is reserved for an understanding between the Government of the Principality, the Porte, and the Company. The question is to be discussed in the Council of Ministers on Thursday. I have called the Foreign Minister's attention to the fact that the claim had already been recognized by the late Foreign Minister, Abédine Pasha, as a just debt due by Turkey to the Company before the war, and that it formed one of the items which he himself, in his note No. 104 of the 3rd August, 1880, stated that the Porte were ready to liquidate. From the reply made to me by Assim Pasha I am in hopes that this matter will also be satisfactorily settled.

In concluding this despatch, I beg to express to your Lordship my obligation to Sir Alfred Sandison and Mr. Marinich, the First and Second Dragomans of this Embassy, for the assistance they have given me in bringing this difficult matter to a successful termination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

Memorandum by Mr. Marinich.

JE me suis présenté chez le Ministre des Finances pour lui demander s'il avait eu l'occasion de recevoir les instructions du Premier Ministre à l'égard des havalés à délivrer aux créanciers Anglais, selon l'accord intervenu entre l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté et Son Altesse Saïd Pacha.

Son Excellence Munir Bey m'a répondu qu'il s'était abouché non seulement avec le

Premier Ministre, mais aussi avec le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et qu'il avait été décidé de payer immédiatement aux créanciers Anglais les deux tiers de leur avoir en havalés, et de leur délivrer le reste des havalés d'ici à deux mois, de façon à ce qu'ils puissent recevoir en havalés le montant intégral de leurs créances sur les revenus de l'année courante, comme il avait été convenu.

Le Ministre des Finances espérait que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté, prenant en considération la situation du Trésor, n'aurait pas fait des difficultés à adhérer à la décision de la Porte.

Munir Bey m'a ajouté que les créanciers Anglais s'étaient présentés chez lui, qu'il leur avait déjà communiqué la décision de la Porte, et qu'ils s'y étaient conformés.

Depuis mon entrevue avec le Ministre des Finances, j'ai vu Messrs. Cuppa, Frères, M. Genaj, Agent de la maison Summa, de Scutari d'Albanie, Mr. N. Dussi, représentant les intérêts de son frère Mr. M. Dussi, Vice-Consul d'Angleterre à Ridosto, et M. d'Andria, fondé de pouvoirs de Mr. Odoni, Vice-Consul d'Angleterre à Gallipoli. Ces messieurs m'ont dit qu'ils acceptaient en havalés les deux tiers de leurs créances du moment que le Ministre des Finances m'avait déclaré officiellement qu'il leur aurait délivré dans deux mos le reste des havalés.

Aussitôt que le Malieh aura fourni les havalés à ces créanciers Anglais, j'aurai l'honneur d'en informer l'Ambassade pour sa satisfaction.

(Signé) MARINICH.

Péra, le 24 Septembre, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

MM. G. and S. Cuppa, Frères, to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Constantinople, le 26 Septembre*, 1881.

NOUS avons l'honneur d'informer votre Seigneurie que nous nous conformant à l'offre du Ministre des Finances nous avons accepté les deux tiers de notre créance en havalés sur les revenus des provinces de l'année courante, et avons la ferme confiance qu'avec le concours puissant de votre Seigneurie, le Ministre des Finances nous fournira aussi le reste des havalés d'ici à deux mois, conformément à la promesse formelle donnée par son Excellence Munir Bey au Drogman de l'Ambassade Royale.

Nous sommes à la veille de remplir les formalités requises pour l'obtention de ces délégations et nous n'avons qu'à nous louer de l'empressement que Mr. Marinich a mis pour applanir les difficultés de détails qui s'étaient présentées.

Avant de recevoir nos havalés nous considérons un devoir sacré pour nous d'exprimer à votre Excellence notre plus profonde reconnaissance pour tout ce qu'elle a daigné faire en faveur de notre créance, qui serait restée indubitablement en souffrance sans les démarches que votre Excellence, dans sa haute bienveillance, a bien voulu faire auprès de la Sublime Porte.

Notre gratitude, My Lord, est d'autant plus grande que le prochain encaissement des havalés que le Gouvernement nous fournira, nous permettra de cesser les énormes sacrifices que nous sommes sans cesse obligés de nous imposer pour éviter la catastrophe commerciale qui nous menace.

Faisant les vœux les plus ardents au Ciel pour la prospérité et le bien-être à votre Seigneurie et de sa noble famille, nous la prions humblement d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) G. ET S. CAPPA, FRÈRES.

No. 9.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 107.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, September* 15, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 106 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to report that I have gladly availed myself of the excuse afforded me by the coming of one of my brothers on a visit to me, to arrive here to meet him, and thus to avoid the appearance of having come purposely to tender serious advice to the Prince, as to the treatment by his Government of the inhabitants of the recently annexed districts of Dulcigno.

Prince Nicholas, with the frankness which he has always shown towards me,

immediately on seeing me asked me to explain to him the reasons for the most unexpected commotion which had arisen among the Dulcigniotes, and which, he had been informed, arose from intrigues, having their origin at Scutari.

I replied that, as yet, I had not observed in North Albania any signs of interference in Montenegrin border affairs, but whether such intrigues existed or not, I trusted His Highness would permit me to point out that it was not impossible that his anxiety for the consolidation and improved administration of his Principality may have tempted his Ministers to counsel a pace which was too fast to carry the proposed reforms in safety to the desired end.

I urged the Prince most strongly to exercise the greatest patience and forbearance with so industrious and peaceably inclined a population as that of Dulcigno, and not to be carried away by religious prejudices into the hope of legally effecting the expulsion of Mussulmans to replace them by Christians.

His Highness assured me that such an idea had never entered his head, and he fully shared my opinion that it would be most mortifying if, after a year of Montenegrin rule, the Dulcigniotes should find themselves constrained to abandon all they possess, rather than remain subject to it.

I then explained to Prince Nicholas the nature of the objections of the Dulcigniotes to the four matters enumerated in the petition which they had presented to His Highness during his recent visit to their district.

As to the attendance of the Mussulman children at the Slav schools, the Prince said he owed it to civilized Europe to be firm on the point, but so far fell in with the tenour of my advice as to consent to remodel the existing regulations after due consultation with the Mussulman spiritual authorities of Dulcigno, and the elders of the different parishes of the district.

The explanation advanced by me for the objection of the Dulcigniotes to accept the arms which His Highness wished to distribute amongst the adult inhabitants, induced His Highness to adopt the decision of immediately telegraphing to Voïvoda Simon Popovich, the Governor of Dulcigno, to issue a public notice to the effect that the Montenegrin Government merely wished to arm the inhabitants in order that they might furnish police and other guards for their own district, and thus relieve the Montenegrin soldiers who had hitherto performed these duties. If they still preferred to be exempt from military servitude, the Montenegrin Government would not oppose assimilating them to Christians in the Ottoman dominions, and would accept from them an exemption tax, with which the expenses for supplying Montenegrin guards would be met. Should, however, as the Prince hoped, the Dulcigniotes elect the more manly course, and consent to carry arms, His Highness would deliver a charter, insuring to them the privilege of freedom from military service out of their own district.

With regard to the application of the Montenegrin civil law in questions of Mahommedan marriages and successions, the Prince quickly saw the injustice that would ensue, and the Sheriat will, as heretofore, be administered in all purely Mussulman cases.

On the subject of the assumption of the Montenegrin flag by vessels belonging to Dulcigniotes who still wish to retain Ottoman nationality for their ships, I easily perceived that Prince Nicholas is ambitious to swell to the utmost extent the number of his mercantile marine, but I did not hesitate to point out the hardship and injustice that the attainment of his end would inflict; therefore I trust the Prince's better sense will make him abandon an attempt, about which, however, I failed to obtain a promise from His Highness.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 10.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 5.)

(No. 110. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, September* 16, 1881.

WHEN I saw Prince Nicholas yesterday I ventured to inquire of His Highness how far the reports which were circulating at Scutari in Mahommedan circles of Montenegrins having joined the insurgent or robber bands in the Herzegovina were true.

His Highness assured me that not one single Montenegrin had yet taken part in the

outrages which had recently occurred on his northern borders, and he begged me to make inquiries of my Austrian colleague, Baron Thoemmel.

This morning I had an opportunity of acting on this suggestion, and received the reply that the attitude of both Prince Nicholas and his Government towards Austria-Hungary in the intricate questions existing in the Bocche di Cattaro and in Bosnia and Herzegovina had, up to the present moment, been perfectly straightforward and most praiseworthy.

Baron Thoemmel then went on to explain to me the great difficulties he had in making this understood by suspicious and ignorant authorities in the recently-acquired provinces, who were perpetually telegraphing to him that they had positive information of the connivance of the Prince in the proceedings of the bandits roaming on the edges of his frontiers, and of their frequent presence in Cettinjé itself.

Although my colleague was very particular in designating those who are now out on the Herzegovina and Bosnian mountains, and who do not number more than 150 men, as nothing but bandits, still at the same time he laid stress on the fact that they are very intelligently led, and that the Chiefs, by the careful manner in which they spread reports that they are in direct communication with Prince Nicholas, and receive weekly subsidies from His Highness, and the plan they have adopted of only attacking or robbing the Austrian soldiers or those connected with the Government, not only mislead the authorities as to their real status, but also induce discontented peasants or fanatical Mahommedan natives to swell their following.

Baron Thoemmel added that, unfortunately, heed had also been given to the existing rumours of insurrection and disorder through the action or incompetency of many of the officials employed in the occupied provinces, who were chiefly military men. Most of them had never before been brought into contact with anything resembling an Eastern Government and population, and by the time they had gained sufficient experience at the expense of a series of blunders, they were either promoted back to civilized life, or, by resigning, marked their determination of not submitting to the hardships ever present in semi-barbarous countries, or of watching over ungrateful and sullen populations.

As an instance of the trouble arising to the Austro-Hungarian Government from the incompetency or ill-considered action of its subordinates, Baron Thoemmel mentioned the conduct of the Commandant of the district of Gatsko, which is the centre of operations of the robber bands, and on the immediate confines of Montenegro.

This officer, being imbued with ultra-Slav views and feelings, on assuming his duties showed the greatest sympathy for the native Christian peasantry, and ill-will towards the numerous body of Moslem proprietors and landlords. Whenever the latter applied to him for assistance to recover their rents, he railed at their rights, said that they had had the pleasure of lording it over the Christians for 400 years, and that now the latter were about to have their turn on the upper post. This language demoralized the Mussulmans to such an extent that, foreseeing complete confiscation of their estates, they met and deputed some of their number to come to an arrangement with their Christian tenants for avoiding entire loss. The persons thus deputed, under the depressing influences already mentioned, agreed to receive from the Christians a yearly rental of one-eighth of the produce; but when they came to give an account of their mission to their fellow-proprietors, the latter, who had in the interval heard of the agrarian arrangement which had been concluded by the Supreme Government for the other districts of the provinces, and which slightly exceeds one-quarter of the yearly produce clear for the landlord, refused to ratify the settlement of their deputies. Hereupon arose endless disputes, and many references to Vienna, and quite recently it has been decided that the Gatsko district must not be excluded from the benefit of the general settlement. But the Christians now consider themselves aggrieved, and as the authorities cannot force the proprietors to accept the eighth of the produce which has been offered with great alacrity, the robber bands have found their ranks considerably increased through peasants who decline to accept any land settlement than that first concluded with the Mahommedan deputies.

Baron Thoemmel asserts that, notwithstanding these and other such untoward side incidents, he believes that the agrarian settlement devised at Vienna is so fair that it will be shortly acquiesced in on all sides. He bases this assumption on observations made recently by himself in all the most discontented districts of the two provinces, and when he ascertained that every party had something to find fault with in the arrangement—a proof to Baron Thoemmel that it is most fair and just, and cannot fail to become acceptable in the end.

From what I have been able to gather from other sources, I am inclined fully to concur in my Austrian colleague's estimate of the correct attitude observed by Prince Nicholas in regard to the existing agitation, but it is evident that neither the Prince nor

his Government wish it to be understood that they possess no influence in the adjoining provinces, and that they share in any way the sanguine views of Baron Thoemmel as to the ultimate results of the agrarian settlement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 11.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)*

(No. 112.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September* 18, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 107 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas informed me the day before yesterday, before I left Cettinjé, that he was sorry to say he had received a telegram from Voïvoda Simon Popovich, at Dulcigno, announcing that the inhabitants had declined to be pacified by the explanations he had been authorized to furnish them concerning the nature of the military service required of them, and that he had consequently been obliged to imprison a few of those who appeared to be the ringleaders of the resistance to the Prince's wishes.

I once more impressed upon His Highness the necessity of forbearance and lenieney, and said I trusted the assurances he had authorized me to give to such of the Dulcigniotes whom I might meet in Scutari would tend to renew their confidence in His Highness' Government.

Since my return here I have had the opportunity of conversing with some very influential Notables from Dulcigno, and one of them left for that district this morning, in order to communicate to his fellow-countrymen the reassuring messages I had been able to convey to him.

On the other hand, I must not hide from your Lordship that some of my Dulcigno friends appear to me to be greatly excited, and determined to listen to no conciliatory advice.

(Most Confidential.)

From a source which is in a position to know, I have learned this afternoon that the above-alluded-to Notables are in direct telegraphic communication with Dervish Pasha, and that his Excellency has backed up their pretensions to exemption from submission to Montenegrin laws on the ground that all Dulcigniotes are still Ottoman subjects, as he asserts they have three years allowed them, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, to elect their nationality.

As I believe this statement is based on a reading of the XXXth Article of the Treaty invented—if I may say so—by Hussein Pasha, I have ventured to telegraph to Lord Dufferin on the subject, and to urge most strongly that Dervish Pasha, and all other Turkish authorities in these regions, should be enjoined to abstain from encouraging the Dulcigniotes in a course which can only result in their expatriation and consequent ruin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 12.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 113.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September* 18, 1881.

ALTHOUGH no serious consequences are likely to arise from the two occurrences I am about to recount to your Lordship, still I venture to report them, as they will afford your Lordship a clear idea of the state of the country here, and of the apparent impotency of the Turkish local authorities.

During the recent Mahommedan feast of the Bairam, the son of one of the feudal nobles at Alessio, a young man about 19 years of age, amused himself, together with a Christian servant belonging to one of the neighbouring tribes, by firing at the bell of the Christian church at Alessio as a mark.

Last week the Mahommedans of that town were surprised to see a body of about 400 armed Christian mountaineers of the neighbourhood enter their market, and presently learnt that they required the delivery to them of the youth, Mehemet Agha, and his Christian servant. They stated they had left another body of 400 of their tribesmen

outside the town; that if the Mahommedans declined their demand, they would give them twenty-four hours to prepare their houses for defence, to send for ammunition or for assistance, and to remove their women and children to their friends, but that if, at the expiration of the time granted, the two men were not delivered, Alessio and its Mahommedan population would be utterly destroyed.

The Moslems held a meeting in the mosque to consider the summons, and decided to comply with it.

When the Christians received their prisoners they fired a general salute and withdrew.

It is understood that they have since held a trial of the culprits, and that they have condemned the Christian servant to death, not only for sacrilege but for many other crimes, and that Mehemet Agha is to be retained a prisoner for a sufficient time for him to understand that there are other prisons in the country besides those of the Ottoman Government.

The other occurrence is less favourable to the Christians from a chivalrous point of view.

A harem of a Turkish officer belonging to the garrison of Tousi went last Friday for a short walk in the neighbourhood of the fort, accompanied by a guard of two Turkish soldiers. Presently two Roman Catholic mountaineers of the Hotti tribe, in order to rob the soldiers of their Martini rifles, shot them from behind the rocks, killing the one and wounding the other. On the alarm being given a whole battalion was marched out, and for some time the mountaineers amused themselves firing shots at it in bravado from their inaccessible peaks.

Messengers have been sent by the Vali to the Hotti Chiefs demanding the surrender of the guilty mountaineers, and threats have been used of attacking the whole tribe, but as yet no signs have been shown of compliance with the Vali's demands.

It is possible that the Hotti will attempt to put forward the present act as a set-off for a recent outrage by some soldiers on a Hotti woman, and for which the tribe was unable to obtain any redress from the authorities here, but, in any case, it is probable that neither the Vali nor the military commanders will advise that active operations should be undertaken against the premier tribe of the Roman Catholic mountains, and which might quickly degenerate into fighting with all the Christian clansmen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 13.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

E
(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, September* 21, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 112 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that this morning Prince Nicholas received me prior to my departure for Scutari, and informed me that a telegram had just come in from Dulcigno announcing that a sudden change had taken place in the feeling of the Dulcigniotes, who had been to explain to Voïvoda Simon Popovich that they had quite misunderstood the intentions of the Prince, and that they now wished to avail themselves of the right which his Highness had accorded to them of proceeding to Cettinjé, and there conferring with his Highness as to the best means of carrying out the measures which he had devised for their benefit.

M. Simon Popovich had, therefore, immediately liberated the half-dozen persons whom he had been obliged to arrest, and a numerous deputation was already preparing to start for Cettinjé.

Prince Nicholas, on my taking leave of him, thanked me for what he was graciously pleased to term the valuable assistance I had afforded him in making the Dulcigniotes understand how anxious the Montenegrin Government is to make its laws and institutions as little irksome as possible to their ways of thought and habits.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 14.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Scutari, September* 22, 1881.

SHORTLY after my return here yesterday from Cettinjé, the petition, of which the inclosed is a translation, was sent to me by some Dulcigniotes residing in Scutari.

As I ascertained that these persons had no knowledge yet of the change of feeling which had arisen at Dulcigno, reported in my despatch No. 116 of yesterday's date, I sent and informed them of it, and added that I should take no further notice of the petition until I had heard the result of the deputation which was to confer with the Prince of Montenegro.

It is almost unnecessary for me to point out to your Lordship that the statements of cruelty and threats of burning and massacre made in the petition are pure fabrications; but should, unfortunately, the Dulcigniotes be unable to come to a final understanding with the Montenegrin Government, and wish to withdraw from Dulcigno, I will then do all in my power to secure for them the right they undoubtedly possess of freely emigrating.

(Confidential.)

The allusions made in the petition to the Dulcigniotes being still Ottoman subjects, and to their right to remain so for another three years, is based on telegraphic explanations received by some of the promoters of the petition from Dervish Pasha.

I think it right also to add that the Dulcigno leaders have admitted to me that they have absolutely nothing to complain of in the conduct of the Montenegrins, and that the present misunderstandings are merely quarrels between the heads of the principal Mahommedan families, some of whom hold office under the Montenegrin Government, and others of whom would like to do so.

Dervish Pasha is probably using these rivalries to create difficulties for Salih Effendi, the Mudaris who returned to Dulcigno after the failure of the Pasha to keep his word with him (see despatch No. 29 of the 12th March, 1881), and for Hadji Omer Effendi, the member of the Prisrend Albanian League, who succeeded in escaping to Dulcigno (see despatch No. 64 of the 27th May, 1881).

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Petition of Dulcigniote Mussulmans to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)
Sir,

IT is unnecessary to explain to your Excellency that at the Berlin Congress the Powers gave their guarantee that the people of the districts which were to be taken from our Sovereign and to be given to Montenegro should remain Ottoman subjects for three years, that they should have the option of remaining in or of quitting the said districts, that they should enjoy religious toleration, and permission to exercise their customs and rights; and, finally, that those who emigrated, or were about to emigrate, should keep possession of their real property, whether administered by proxy or in person.

Contrary to our expectations, the Montenegrins have begun to harass and vex those who remained in their houses in the Province of Dulcigno, believing that their life, honour, and property were safe, in accordance with the said guarantee.

They attempted to force our children to attend their schools, to compel us to accept Montenegrin sovereignty, and the men capable of bearing arms to carry rifles; and so, as we could not accept these vexatious and oppressive propositions, we resolved and prepared to emigrate. When we were ready to depart, the Montenegrin Representative at Dulcigno summoned certain of our community to him, and informed them that the property of those who did not accept the Montenegrin proposals would be confiscated and their houses burnt; and, finally, threatened that the Montenegrin Government would even go so far as to cause a general massacre.

Therefore, as the Montenegrins have threatened the said persons with imprisonment, and dared to place officials on the roads to stop emigration, and seized the property of those who had already emigrated, and, as their cruel and oppressive conduct, which is in direct opposition to the decision of the Congress, has cut off all hope of security to life,

honour, and property, we, your unfortunate servants, throw ourselves on your mercy, and make our complaint, and implore you to take measures for our safety. And if Dulcigno has been given up and abandoned to the Montenegrin Government, we request you to give a decisive answer and a copy of the Articles.

(Signed by sixteen Mussulman inhabitants of Dulcigno.)

No. 15.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 118.)

Scutari, September 23, 1881.

My Lord,

FROM a person worthy of credit, who recently arrived from Prisrend, I learn that some days ago an Orthodox church, built on the outskirts of Prisrend by the Wallach residents, was burnt.

An attempt has been made to fix this outrage on the Bulgarian community, but the disagreements which had arisen when the Bulgarians separated from the other Orthodox communities having long ago ceased, the Wallachs suspect, therefore, that the church was set fire to by Mahommedans.

My informant states also that Dervish Pasha has already lost much of his prestige with the natives; that he cannot move out of doors without a very large escort; that all respectable people have to retire to their houses before sunset; and that the whole of North-east Albania may still be said to be in a state of anarchy and disorder.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 16.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 111.)

Salonica, September 27, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that considerable reinforcements are being sent to Prisrend.

Already three battalions of infantry have left Salonica for that locality by special trains viâ Uscup, and will be followed by ten more battalions, to be detached from the army corps which evacuated Thessaly, and whose head-quarters have been transferred to Serfidjé (Servia).

The Ferik Ali Pasha has been sent here by Dervish Pasha to superintend and hasten the dispatch of these troops; and I hear that Dervish Pasha is making arrangements to occupy Dibra with twenty battalions of infantry and two field and four mountain batteries. He hopes by such a display of force to pacify the country and induce the mountain tribes to submit to the conscription and taking of the census.

This resort to active measures of coercion gives colour to the rumour prevalent here that the Porte is not satisfied with the course hitherto pursued by Dervish Pasha in his dealings with the Albanians.

Be this as it may, the coming winter, which sets in early in North Albania, will, I fear, greatly interfere with his military operations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 17.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 49.)

Constantinople, September 27, 1881.

My Lord,

FROM information which I have just received from Crete, it would appear that the Porte has finally rejected the demand of the General Assembly of the Cretans that the half of the customs dues be paid to meet the deficit of the current year. I entered fully into the grounds of the claim set up by the Assembly in my despatch No. 40 to your Lordship of the 30th July, and again in the inclosure to my despatch No. 41 of the

18th August, so that it will not be necessary for me to enlarge on the subject now. As the police must soon cease to receive their pay with punctuality owing to the want of funds, it is much to be feared that they will before long desert. Photiades Pasha indeed anticipates such a result, and his Excellency hinted to me that he should himself be compelled to resign unless the Porte supplied him with the means of paying the guardians of order.

I have furnished his Excellency the Ambassador with the above information.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 18.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 852. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 3, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 657 of the 22nd September, in which you refer to Consul Jones' proposals in regard to the Rhodope villages, as contained in his despatch No. 42 of the 29th August.

At a conference on the 1st instant I again called the attention of my colleagues to the grave consequences which were arising, and which would probably accrue in an aggravated form, from the fact of the Rhodope villages being suffered to remain outside of any recognized jurisdiction. I communicated to them the substance of Consul-General Jones' despatch, and especially called their attention to the fact that the Acting Governor-General of Adrianople was still collecting from the villages in question the tithes and imposts to the amount of £T. 4,000 annually.

It was suggested in reply that the Turks, having evacuated the country, could not be expected to undertake to re-enter it merely for the purpose of handing it over to the Roumelian Government. I answered that as long as an Ottoman Vali collected the taxes the Turks could not claim to have surrendered the district.

M. Novikoff stated that, owing to his absence, the matter had escaped his attention, but that he would at once turn to the consideration of it. None of my other colleagues showed any very great inclination to press the matter with the Porte.

I then suggested the propriety of hinting to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that as long as such questions as that of the Rhodope villages and of the Montenegrin frontier remained unsettled the Turkish Government could hardly expect the Powers to show any great alacrity in entering upon the discussion of the tributes. No objection was made to this proposal, but M. Novikoff observed that other preliminaries would have to be settled before the question of the Bulgarian tribute could be discussed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 19.

E *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)*

(No. 855.)

Therapia, October 3, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE had a good deal of serious conversation with Consul Sandwith with regard to the condition of Crete, which appears far from satisfactory.

Your Lordship will have already received Consul Sandwith's despatch No. 40 of the 30th July last, copy of which I have received from that gentleman, and his despatch to me of the 18th August, a copy of which he informs me that he has also sent to your Lordship, with regard to the financial prospects of the island, and the importance of the Porte's confirming the Cretan Budget and granting half the customs dues.

Impressed by the grave consequences which may arise should the Governor-General find himself without the means of paying his police, who, under such circumstances, would certainly return to their homes, I took the opportunity in conference yesterday to bring the subject to the notice of my colleagues. His Excellency the French Ambassador also spoke upon the subject in very strong terms, and it was agreed that we should take an opportunity of pressing the matter upon the Porte in whatever manner each of us might deem best, with the view of inducing the Ottoman Government to make good the

impending deficit by contributing half the customs duties of the island, as in such a contingency they are bound to do by the existing "Règlement."

Our advice upon the subject, however, is not likely, I fear, to have much effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 20.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 858.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 3, 1881.*

I AM happy to be able to inform you that having spoken more than once upon the subject at the Porte, there at last appears an inclination on the part of the Ottoman Government to employ the English gendarmerie officers a little more actively. Colonel Blunt has been sent to Adrianople, Colonel Briscoe is at Aleppo, Colonel Baker and Colonel Norton are going to Smyrna and Damascus, and Colonel Synge is attached to Baker Pasha's Department at Constantinople.

Baker Pasha further informs me that these officers are now being regularly paid, and that most of their arrears have also been handed them. Regular orders, moreover, have been forwarded to the Valis notifying the powers and duties of the inspectors, and directing every assistance to be given to them.

Although so far this is satisfactory, I am sorry to say that the reorganization of the gendarmerie generally upon the plan recommended by Baker Pasha seems as far off as ever, or rather an inclination is being evinced to return to the old zaptieh regulations with some modifications.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 21.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 867. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 4, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 635 of the 10th ultimo, with its inclosures, instructing me as to the course which I am to pursue, in conjunction with my colleagues, with regard to the question of the Holy Places in Roumania.

On Saturday the subject was mooted at the conference, but I did not perceive any alacrity upon the part of my brother Representatives to take the matter up; and, to my surprise, even the Russian Ambassador allowed the discussion upon the subject to languish and die, without seeking to induce his colleagues to come to any definite conclusion in regard to it.

My French colleague, M. Tissot, who is well acquainted, from his residence in Roumania, with all the details of the controversy, told me he regards it as a buried question; and observed that, now that Roumania is an independent kingdom, there would be no means of compelling her to comply with any arrangement which might be recommended from Constantinople.

Three delegates from the Greek community—the Metropolitan Gerasimos, representing the Patriarch of Jerusalem, the Secretary of the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople, and another gentleman—called upon me lately and solicited my good offices in the cause of the Holy Places. I listened to everything they had to say, but I did not undertake to do more than confer with my colleagues on the subject.

The French Ambassador is inclined to contend that the property in dispute never belonged to the Greek Church, but that at a time when the ignorant native clergy were incompetent to undertake the responsibilities attaching to the management of landed estates, Greek priests were invited to act as trustees of the estates in question; and that, although with the lapse of time they came to assume the character of proprietors, they had been in reality mere "gérants."

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 22.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 4, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Porte, acting upon the suggestion of Dervish Pasha, has decreed the grouping of the districts (cazas) of Jacova, Ipek, Gussinjé, Berani, and Trgowischtje, into a sandjak under a Mutessarif (Governor), who will reside at Ipek, and be subordinate to the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Cossova.

Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, one of the most prominent Albanian Notables, has been appointed Mutessarif of this new sandjak, with power to nominate Albanian Chiefs as Kaïmakams of the five districts under his jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 23.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, October 1, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of to-day to the Earl of Dufferin, relating to the insecurity that prevails in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Prevesa, October 1, 1881.*

I HAVE from time to time reported to your Excellency on the state of insecurity that prevails in the interior of Epirus owing to the numerous bands of brigands that exist there, and it is now with regret that I have the honour to state that Prevesa, which, up to a short time ago, was considered safe, is unfortunately no longer so. Not many days since a native of Paramithia who had come to Prevesa for the purpose of selling some goats, was, while returning to his native town, brutally murdered on the high road between Prevesa and Nicopolis. His body was brought to town, where it was interred. This murder was soon followed by another act, and which has caused, perhaps, a greater sensation. As I was returning from my afternoon walk on Sunday last I met several zaptiehs, who were proceeding in great haste towards one of the town gates, and on inquiring what was the matter I was told that a Jew and his son had just been carried off by brigands. Their capture was effected about 200 yards outside the walls of the town, and the Public Prosecutor, with two other members of the judicial body, happening to be near there at the time, and hearing the cries, proceeded in that direction, and saw the brigands, five in number, making off with the prisoners. The Jew returned next morning, but his son was kept a hostage.

The leader of this band of outlaws is a Turk, native of Prevesa, and up to a few months back a cavass in the Italian Vice-Consulate; the other four are Christians. I am happy to say, however, that they have all been captured. The leader and two of the band, together with the young Jew they had carried off, were brought to town yesterday.

From Mr. Kypriotis I constantly hear of captures sometimes followed by murder. For instance, on the 22nd ultimo he reports that a band of eighty brigands entered the village of Tsgur (district of Premeti) and carried off seven schoolboys, whose ransom they fixed at £ T. 7,000, and, in order to compel the parents to be quick with the money, they sent in the head of one of the boys.

It is therefore owing to this state of affairs that I respectfully venture to suggest, especially as the shooting season is about to commence, that all British subjects intending to visit Epirus either for sport or for business should be warned against doing so, and, further, that should they insist in coming notwithstanding the warning that is given to

them, I should wish them to understand as clearly as possible that they do so at their own risk, for I cannot answer for their safety.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 24.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 146.)
My Lord,

Sophia, October 4, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation in French of a Manifesto which was issued by the Prince of Bulgaria on the $\frac{14}{26}$th ultimo, announcing the institution of a Council of State to co-operate with His Highness in securing without delay the regular organization of the Principality. His Highness states that, in the Statute of Organization of the Council of State, his faithful subjects will perceive the resurrection of the principles which obtained the sanction of the late Czar, and which he is convinced will form the most appropriate basis for the new institution. His Highness refers to his Manifesto of the 1st July, and states that, relying on the elevated sentiments of his subjects for the welfare of the country, he has confidently left in their hands the election of the majority of the Council. After appealing to the patriotism and wisdom of the Bulgarians, His Highness invokes the blessing of the Almighty upon the new institution, in order that through it the reign of equity, legality, and order may be established in the country.

The Statute of Organization, of which I have only just received the official translation, which I have the honour to inclose, provides that the Council of State shall consist of twelve members, of whom four shall be nominated by the Prince, and eight elected by the nation by a system of double election. In case of absolute necessity these numbers may be increased.

The Ministers will also belong to the Council of State, but only with consultative voice. Each Minister will, however, have the right of voting on questions which concern his Department. The Bulgarian Bishops will elect one of their number as member of the Council, with the right of voting upon questions regarding the civil relations of the Church.

The elected members must be either Bulgarians or of Bulgarian origin, of at least thirty years of age, and they must either have served irreproachably in the higher posts of the State, or have been employed in a subordinate capacity after having concluded their studies in a superior educational institution. The nation will elect twenty persons, from whom the Prince will select eight, to serve as members of the Council, and any vacancies which occur will be filled up from the remaining twelve. Half of the elected members will be renewed at the end of every three years, the members being re-eligible. The members nominated by the Prince will be appointed for three years and may be re-nominated.

The Prince will name a President and Vice-President from among the elected or nominated members. The members of the Council of State may not hold any other posts, or be Members of the National Assembly, and they can only resign their posts in cases of prolonged illness. In questions regarding the civil relations of the religions existing in the Principality other than the Orthodox Bulgarian, the Council of State will invite the representatives of those religions to assist at their deliberations with consultative voice, and in questions requiring technical knowledge, the Council of State may demand the assistance of competent persons, whether Bulgarians or foreigners. The Statute concludes with a long list of the attributions of the Council of State, from which your Lordship will perceive that the new institution is endowed with very large powers both as a legislative Council and an administrative Tribunal.

The adoption of this measure has caused great dissatisfaction among the leaders of the Conservative party, who had submitted to the Prince a project for a Council of State, of which all the members should be nominated by His Highness, and which should only take cognizance of such questions as His Highness might think fit to submit to them. Their project, however, was rejected, and one which had been drawn up by M. Drinoff, and which was warmly supported by M. Hitrovo, the Russian Agent and Consul-General, was adopted with some modifications.

The law regulating the elections for the Council of State has not yet been promulgated, but I understand that it is intended that an elector should be chosen by the inhabitants of each hundred houses. The electors so chosen will meet in the different districts, and will select twenty names from a list drawn up by the Government of the persons qualified to serve as members of the Council. The voting papers will be forwarded to the Court of Cassation, who will declare the result of the elections.

I have been informed that the list of qualified persons will consist of fifty or sixty persons, the majority of whom belong to the Liberal party, but that no Mussulman possesses the necessary qualifications to be elected a member of the Council. As, however, no qualifications are required from the four members nominated by the Prince, His Highness will be at liberty to nominate one or more Mussulmans if he should think fit.

There can be no doubt that the institution of a Council of State with such extended powers diminishes to a great extent the full powers conferred upon the Prince by the Great National Assembly at Sistova, but at the same time it diminishes his responsibility to the same extent, and it is probably this consideration, and the earnest recommendation of M. Hitrovo, which induced His Highness to sanction M. Drinoff's project in preference to the one submitted to him by the Conservative leaders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 24.

Manifesto of Prince of Bulgaria announcing institution of Council of State.

(Translation.)

NOUS, Alexandre Ier, par la grâce de Dieu et la volonté nationale, Prince de Bulgarie,

A tous nos fidèles sujets savoir faisons: qu'en vertu des pouvoirs à nous conférés nous avons jugé bon d'instituer un Conseil d'Etat, lequel est appelé à vaquer constamment avec nous afin de pouvoir atteindre sans délai l'organisation régulière de notre jeune Etat.

Dans le Statut d'Organisation du dit Conseil d'Etat promulgué auprès du Manifeste actuel, nos fidèles sujets verront la résurrection des principes qui ont été sanctionnés par l'approbation de feu le Czar-Libérateur.

Cette décision de rappeler à la vie ces principes, nous a été inspiré aussi bien par le sentiment de pieuse vénération à l'impérissable mémoire du bienfaiteur de la nation Bulgare, que par la conviction profonde que ce sont là les bases les plus appropriées du Conseil d'Etat, nécessaire à notre Etat si spontanément éclos.

Le développement que nous sommes décidé de donner aujourd'hui à ces principes, se fonde sur nos augustes intentions exprimées dans notre Manifeste du 1er Juillet. Fermement convaincu que tous nos fidèles sujets sont pénétrés des mêmes sentiments élevés pour le bien du pays que ceux qui nous animent nous-mêmes, nous nous en remettons à eux avec une entière confiance, en les chargeant d'élire la majeure partie du Conseil d'Etat.

Que le patriotisme et la sagesse qui ont toujours distingué notre peuple se manifestent aussi dans les circonstances actuelles dans toute leur force. Que la terre Bulgare nous envoie comme Conseillers, des hommes qui, entourant notre trône, sauront non seulement remplir dignement leurs devoirs, mais serviront encore à resserrer les liens étroits qui nous unissent à notre peuple bien aimé.

Que le Dieu Tout-Puissant qui a si miraculeusement accompli l'affranchissement de notre patrie, bénisse notre conception actuelle, afin que par elle s'établisse au plus vite dans notre jeune Etat, le règne de l'équité, de la légalité, et du bon ordre.

(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

Sophia, le 14 Septembre, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 24.

Statute of Organization of Council of State in Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

LE Conseil d'État se compose:—

(*a.*) Des Ministres;
(*b.*) De Membres nommés par le Prince;
(*c.*) De Membres élus par la nation.

2. Outre ces membres, il y aura dans le Conseil d'Etat, comme membre permanent un Evêque élu par les Evêques de la Principauté.

3. Les Ministres peuvent siéger avec voix consultative dans les séances plénières du Conseil d'Etat. Chacun d'eux ne peut avoir voix délibérative que sur des questions qui sont de son ressort.

Les Ministres ne siègent pas dans les séances où l'on délibère sur des questions du contentieux administratif.

4. L'Evêque siège avec voix consultative dans les séances plénières du Conseil d'Etat toutes les fois qu'il le désire. Il n'a voix délibérative que sur les questions qui touchent les relations civiles du culte dominant de la Principauté. Dans ce dernier cas, la présence de l'Evêque au sein du Conseil d'Etat est indispensable.

5. Les membres à nommer par le Prince seront au nombre de quatre.

6. Le nombre des membres à élire par la nation sera de huit.

Observation.—En cas de nécessité absolue, le nombre des membres du Conseil d'Etat peut être augmenté.

7. L'élection des membres par la nation a lieu par des élections à deux degrés d'après un mode à déterminer par un règlement spécial.

8. Les membres à élire pour le Conseil d'Etat, doivent remplir les conditions suivantes:—

(*a.*) Etre sujets Bulgares ou d'origine Bulgare;
(*b.*) Etre âgé au moins de 30 ans;
(*c.*) Avoir servi irréprochablement dans la Principauté comme Ministres, Agent Diplomatiques, Présidents, Membres ou Procureurs de la Cour de Cassation, Gouverneurs, Vice-Gouverneurs, ou Présidents des Anciens Conseils Administratifs Départementaux, Présidents des Cours d'Appel;
(*d.*) Ou bien avoir occupé quelque autre emploi public, après avoir terminé leurs études dans une institution supérieure.

9. Pour les membres éligibles pour le Conseil d'Etat, la nation élit vingt candidates, parmi lesquels le Prince en choisit huit pour être membres du Conseil d'Etat.

D'entre les douze autres candidats élus, il en est qui sont appelés à compléter, au Conseil d'Etat, le nombre des Membres élus dans les cas suivants:—

(*a.*) Lorsqu'un membre élu meurt ou qu'il donne sa démission pour cause de maladie de longue durée;
(*b.*) Lorsqu'à un membre élu est confiée une autre fonction.

10. Les membres élus sont renouvelés par moitié après chaque période de trois ans. Les membres à renouveler à la fin de la première période, seront désignés par tirage au sort.

Les Conseillers sortants peuvent être réélus.

11. Les membres nommés par le Prince le sont pour trois ans; après ce délai, ils peuvent être de nouveau nommés.

12. Parmi les membres du Conseil d'Etat nommés par le Prince ou élus par la nation, le Prince désigne le Président et le Vice-Président du Conseil.

13. Le Président reçoit comme traitement annuel 12,000 fr., le Vice-Président 11,000 fr., et chacun des autres membres 10,000 fr.

Observation.—La question du traitement de l'Evêque sera réglée plus tard.

14. Les membres du Conseil d'Etat ne peuvent pas être élus comme Députés à l'Assemblée Nationale; ils ne peuvent pas non plus occuper d'autres emplois salariés soit par l'Etat, soit par les communes.

15. Les membres du Conseil d'Etat ne peuvent donner leur démission qu'en cas de maladie prolongée.

16. Pour les travaux du Conseil d'Etat, il sera établi une Chancellerie spéciale qui sera dirigée par un Secrétaire élu par le Conseil même et dont le choix sera soumis à la ratification du Prince.

17. Dans les séances où le Conseil d'Etat délibère sur des questions concernant les relations civiles des cultes existant dans la Principauté, à l'exception du culte Orthodoxe dominant, le Conseil d'Etat invite les représentants de ces cultes à assister à ces séances avec voix consultative.

18. Pour l'examen des questions qui exigent des connaissances spéciales théoriques ou pratiques, le Conseil d'Etat peut demander le concours d'hommes compétents, Bulgares ou étrangers. Ces derniers sont admis, s'il est nécessaire, aux séances du Conseil avec voix consultative.

19. Le Conseil d'Etat a pour attributions:—

(*a.*) De donner son avis sur toutes les questions que lui soumet le Gouvernement;
(*b.*) De préparer et d'examiner préalablement tous les Projets de Lois qui, d'après le Manifeste du 1er Juillet, 1881, devront être présentés à l'Assemblée Nationale;
(*c.*) D'élaborer tous les Projets de Lois de finances, qui lui auraient été demandés par l'Assemblée Nationale, et de donner son avis sur tous les Projets de Lois que cette Assemblée lui aurait envoyés;
(*d.*) De préparer et d'examiner les Projets de Lois que le Prince, d'après les pleins pouvoirs à lui conférés par la Grande Assemblée Nationale, juge à-propos de promulguer sans les soumettre à l'Assemblée Nationale;
(*e.*) D'examiner tous les règlements administratifs;
(*f.*) De résoudre en dernière instance les questions du contentieux administratif;
(*g.*) De résoudre les questions de mise en jugement des fonctionnaires nommés par le Prince de l'exception des membres du Corps Judiciaire;
(*h.*) De statuer en dernière instance sur l'utilité publique dans les questions de l'expropriation forcée par l'Etat ou par les communes;
(*i.*) De statuer sur les dépenses non prévues par le Budget dans les cas indiqués par les Articles 125 et 126 de la Constitution;
(*j.*) De régler l'emploi de la somme générale qui est destinée dans le Budget à des dépenses extraordinaires.
(*k.*) D'autoriser les emprunts des départements, des arrondissements, et des communes;
(*l.*) D'examiner les affaires de cession par les départements, arrondissements, et communes, de propriétés immobilières leur appartenant;
(*m.*) De réviser les rapports de la Cour des Comptes sur l'emploi du Budget, avant qu'ils soient présentés à l'Assemblée Nationale;
(*n.*) De recevoir et d'examiner les plaintes émanant des fonctionnaires et des particuliers ainsi que de la part des Administrations de l'Etat ou des institutions publiques, contre les irrégularités des autorités administratives supérieures;
(*o.*) De soumettre au Prince les cas de violation des lois fondamentales de la Principauté.

20. Les attributions du Conseil d'Etat ainsi que sa division en sections, et, en général, tous les règlements de son organisation intérieure seront fixés d'une manière plus détaillée et plus précise, par le Conseil lui-même, aussitôt après sa formation. Les dispositions arrêtées seront soumises à l'approbation du Prince.

Sur l'original du présent Statut, il est écrit de la propre main de Son Altesse,

"J'approuve,"
(Signé) ALEXANDRE.

No. 25.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 17.)

(No. 899. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 10, 1881.

I HAVE already described to your Lordship the intolerable delays which impede the progress of public business in this country, in consequence of the Sultan insisting upon every matter, great and small, being brought within his cognizance, and disposed of in accordance with his individual fiat. Your Lordship is also aware that the liberty of action of the different public Departments at the Porte is still further trammelled and hampered by the fact of almost every affair, with which they are required to deal, having eventually to be referred to the Council of Ministers for a final decision.

In speaking to Sir Alfred Sandison recently, his Highness Saïd Pasha informed him that in the presence of the restrictions thus placed upon his authority and freedom of action, there was little hope of his being able to carry out the reforms he desired in the administration of the country, which, should the present system be persisted in, could not

fail to fall into a still worse state of disorganization. His Highness further pointed that, while the want of Ministerial responsibility thus crippled the action of the Porte, the Governors-General of the most important vilayets were required to refer to Constantinople (by which he meant the Palace) every insignificant question of local interest.

His Highness then denounced the Council of Ministers, before which most of the affairs of the Empire had to come, as a very unsatisfactory institution, and added that it was unable to get through a fourth of the business which was brought before it in the course of the year. As an illustration, his Highness stated that there were no less than 2,400 affairs entered in the registry of the Council of Ministers now awaiting to be disposed of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 26.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 900.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Levant Herald" of this day, stating that M. Thoerner, of the Russian Ministry of Finance, who has been deputed to act as technical adviser to M. Novikoff in the negotiations which he is about to open with the Sublime Porte respecting the Russian war indemnity, arrived yesterday.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Extract from the "Levant Herald" of October 10, 1881.

M. THOERNER, of the Russian Ministry of Finance, who has been deputed to act as technical adviser to M. de Novikoff in the negotiations which he is about to open with the Sublime Porte respecting the Russian war indemnity, arrived yesterday.

No. 27.

Mr. Mason to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter, just received, addressed from Belgrade to Her Majesty's Minister, Mr. Locock, by five Turkish proprietors in the annexed provinces of Servia, relative to their previous protests against the present administration of the Servian Agrarian Law.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ALEXANDER MASON.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Letter from Five Turkish Proprietors to Mr. Locock.

M. le Ministre, *Belgrade, le 21 Septembre, 1881.*

LE Traité de Berlin avait expressément stipulé que les droits des Musulmans des contrées cédées à la Serbie seraient strictement respectés.

Malgré cette solennelle déclaration des Grandes Puissances Signataires du susdit Traité, le Gouvernement Serbe s'est permis et se permet encore de fouler aux pieds les droits les plus sacrés des Musulmans.

Une pareille conduite du Gouvernement Princier avait forcé les Soussignés à se plaindre à plusieurs reprises auprès des Légations des Grandes Puissances.

Malheureusement non seulement aucune suite n'a été donnée à ces plaintes, mais pas même une réponse n'y a été faite.

Le Gouvernement Serbe, encouragé par ce silence, a saisi et fait démolir leurs immeubles, qui représentent une valeur de plusieurs milliards de piastres, quoique leurs droits sur ces immeubles soient établis par des tapous dûment délivrés. En outre, par la nouvelle Loi Agraire il veut, malgré la protestation la plus formelle de la Sublime Porte, nous forcer à vendre nos fermes à des prix dérisoires.

Or, nous déclarons solennellement ne point vouloir vendre nos fermes. Nous demandons que suite soit donnée à la protestation de la Sublime Porte et que conformément à l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin nos biens nous soient intégralement restitués.

Nous prions les Hauts Gouvernements de nous informer par écrit s'ils considèrent l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin comme étant toujours en vigueur oui ou non.

Nous en appelons à l'équité des Grandes Puissances, que nous conjurons de sauvegarder les droits sacrés d'une malheureuse population réduite aux dernières extrémités.

(Signed in Turkish) MÉLIK BEY IBN HASSAN.
KHALED BEY IBN HASSAN BEY.
HUSSÉINE BEY IBN YOUSSOUF BEY.
NEVZAD BEY IBN ESSAD.
ISMAIL BEY IBN ELIAS.

P.S.—D'après nos informations les réponses aux requêtes que nous avions adressées il y a quelques mois aux Grandes Puissances seraient déjà arrivées.

Malgré cette circonstance nous voici à Belgrade depuis bientôt trois mois sans qu'une communication nous ait été faite à ce sujet.

Nous prions, par conséquent, votre Excellence, de bien vouloir nous informer par écrit si nos droits seront enfin respectés conformément à l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin.

MÉLIK BEY BIN HASSAN.
HALID BIN HASSAN.
HUSSÉINE BIN YOUSSOUF.
NEVZAD BEY BIN ESSAD.
ISMAIL BIN ELIAS.

No. 28.

Mr. Mason to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 17.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 10, 1881.*

RELATIVE to my despatch of this day, transmitting copy of a letter from five Turkish proprietors in the new provinces of Servia, I have the honour to state to your Lordship, for the information of Her Majesty's Government, that Khalid Bey, the Ottoman Envoy, has received certain assurances at the Court here which lead his Excellency to believe that an arrangement to meet the demands of the protesting proprietors will be amicably come to with the Servian Government on the return of M. Pirochanatz, the Minister-President, from Vienna, which I understand will be in a few days.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ALEXANDER MASON.

No. 29.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October 7, 1881.*

SINCE my despatch of the 12th August last upon brigandage in Macedonia, and the measures adopted by the military authorities against this evil, nine robber chiefs, with fifty-three of their followers, have surrendered and been brought to Salonica, where they are detained in the citadel.

The following are the names of the nine chiefs:—

Panayotti Calogheros, Ghiorghi Teham, Vanghellis Bozaris, Thanass Gunias, Cara Manolis, Maloush, Djamali, Psalidaki, and Mekas.

All the above are Greeks, with the exception of Maloush and Djamali, who belong to the Tosca tribe of Albanians, and deserted from the irregular corps of police which was organized in this province by Abédine Pasha.

These brigands have been concerned in the commission of numerous robberies, murders, and other heinous and and cruel outrages. Ghiorghi Teham has murdered within the space of the last three years no less than nine Christians and five Turks.

It appears that they have been unconditionally pardoned by the Ferik Selami Pasha and the authorities of Catterina; at least they maintain, and assert that they have letters to prove, that they surrendered themselves upon the faith of a free and full pardon offered to them by the Pasha in the name of the Government.

Salih Pasha, the Commander-in-chief of the troops in the Vilayet of Salonica, denies having authorized such a proceeding, and is now inquiring into the matter. His Excellency earnestly disclaims and deprecates any course on the part of the authorities which is likely to confirm the rumour prevalent here that the surrender of the brigands has been procured through unfair and treacherous means, and will, I believe, ratify the unconditional pardon, if it has been really made by his subordinate, Selami Pasha. But he wishes all the circumstances connected with this matter to be clearly established by a Court of Inquiry in order to prove to the Government and the public that he has all along disapproved of the mischievous system of condoning the offences of the lawless classes.

Be this as it may, I very much regret to say that the action of the authorities in this affair has awakened the mistrust and fear of the numerous brigands whose surrender I reported in my despatch of the 12th August. Already several of them have taken to the mountains in the district of Catterina, and resumed their depredations.

Their first victim was an Austro-Hungarian subject, a certain Adam Rudolph, who was sent by the Municipality of Salonica to survey some stone quarries in that district.

His captors have sent letters to the Governor-General and my Austrian colleague demanding £ T. 15,000 for his ransom, and threatening, in case the demand is not complied with, to kill him.

The state of affairs is very much worse in other districts of Macedonia, particularly in those of Kastoria (Kesrié), Korytza (Giortcha), Strommitza, Djuma, Melnik, and Serres.

The inclosed copies of two letters which I have received from Serres, and four extracts from the two newspapers of Salonica, viz., the "Pharos of Macedonia," published in Greek, and the "Selanik," in Turkish, exhibit generally the misgoverned condition of the country, and call for the application of prompt and efficient remedies. The fact is, this province is being ruined by brigandage, which has assumed the importance of a system and is carried on with impunity and success; and I am afraid that I am not wrong in stating that the general condition of the districts I have named is very much worse than it was ten years ago.

The Porte would do well to give its serious attention to this state of things without further delay. Salih Pasha has at last succeeded in inducing the Porte to dismiss the Albanian irregulars who were employed in police duties in this vilayet, and whose misconduct I reported in some of my despatches; 520 of these irregulars were disbanded and sent to their homes last week. The adoption of this measure has been greeted with general satisfaction by all classes of the peaceable inhabitants, who now hope that his Excellency will also succeed in his further representations recommending the immediate organization of a proper gendarmerie as the most practicable and effective remedy for re-establishing order and tranquillity in the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

Serres, September 16, 1881.

Sir,

A PRIMATE of the village of Radolivo, in the Caza of Zyhna in this sandjak, laid yesterday before me the following complaint on the part of the inhabitants of the said village against the Turkish authorities.

Last month, on the day of the fair of the village, after mass had been read in the church, the people assembled in the inclosure or yard of the church, and, as is customary

on such occasions, danced to the tunes of rough music. About thirty Turks, some of them armed, entered the inclosure and interrupted the proceedings, with the object of carrying away the musicians. The peasants resisted, whereupon the Turks assaulted them, some drawing knives. Heads were broken, wounds given, and amongst the wounded was a woman. The peasants got frightened, and dispersed. The fair was spoiled, the church losing thereby the perquisites it expects to reap on this occasion, which happens once a-year.

The Christians appointed a Committee—one of them was my informant—who telegraphed to the Patriarch and the Pasha of Salonica, imploring protection and satisfaction for the outrage. The Governor of Serres received orders to make inquiries. The "Mudei Oumoumi" (Public Prosecutor) was sent hence to the village.

On his arrival there the Primates related to him the above occurrence.

They further complained that the Turkish villagers, with the exception of Elias Bey, who lives quietly on his estates without participating in the affairs of the village, are continually molesting the Christian villagers, and that sheep and cattle-stealing takes place on the part of the Turks with impunity; that the waters of the village fed four fountains, two in the Christian and two in the Turkish quarter. The Turks cut off the the water feeding the fountains of the Christians and turned it all to their own fountains, thus compelling the Christians to visit the Turkish part of the village to obtain water, and there they are exposed to insults on the part of the Turks; injuries and offensive language are used by the latter against the religion and the honour of the women of the former. They, the Turks, break the jars of the Christians and otherwise seriously molest and insult them.

After hearing all this, the aforesaid Public Prosecutor (his name is Haki Bey) answered that he was not sent there to listen to such complaints. These should be referred to the Kaimakam of Zyhna.

He was sent there to examine offences against religion. The music being interrupted after mass, the scuffle which ensued was a mere police case out of his jurisdiction. The said official then wrote out a document, stating that hitherto the Turkish and Christian villagers lived in perfect harmony, peace, and concord, and that the latter had no complaint against the former. Two of the Christian Primates, being overawed, signed the document, the rest refused (one of them was my informant), and for this were told by the Public Prosecutor that they should consider themselves under arrest.

My informant has come to Serres, and is now attending the konak for the last fifteen days to protest formally against the proceedings of the Public Prosecutor, and urges against him that, although he was appointed by higher authority to examine their grievances, he has, instead, left them altogether without redress, thus countenancing and encouraging the badly-disposed Turks to continue their molestations and evil practices. The village of Radolivo is composed of 600 houses, 70 of which are Turkish, the rest Christian. The latter bitterly complain that they should be continually molested and terrorized by such a minority, and that their complaints are left unheard and they defenceless against their persecutors.

My informant has stated the above complaints to all the foreign Consuls here, and related them to me for communication to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ———.

Note by Consul-General Blunt.

I have related the substance of the above letter to Rizvan Bey, the Public Prosecutor of the vilayet. He told me that, having learned the circumstances from a recent paragraph published in the Greek newspaper "Pharos of Macedonia," he had at once directed his subordinate at Serres to furnish him with a full Report of his proceedings at Radolivo.

He promised me to give his best attention to the complaints of the Christians of that village.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

October 3, 1881.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

M. ——— to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Serres, le* 17 *Septembre*, 1881.

VEUILLEZ me permettre de vous décrire quelques-uns des malheurs qui infestent notre province, provenant de la grande inactivité et indifférence des autorités, et qui nous ont conduit dans la plus grande anarchie.

Vous n'avez pas sans doute oublié l'assassinat commis, il y a quelques jours, dans le village de Covnitza, par une bande de soi-disant insurgés Bulgares, lesquels ont détruit une famille entière et cela par pure vengeance; car un des assassinés avait peu de jours auparavant cité devant la justice un homme de la susdite bande. Cet individu ayant réussi de s'échapper de la prison de Serres est allé à la bande et l'a conduit au village pour commettre le massacre.

Il ne se passe pas de jour qu'on n'entend pas des meurtres, des brigandages, des vols, &c. Il y a quelques jours on a découvert deux Chrétiens assassinés sur la route entre Djuma et Demirhissar; un autre à Verdjany; un autre à Loubeskioi, et Mardi dernier des Kirdadjis revenant de Negrita ont été dépouillés de leur argent et chevaux.

Des vols et autres crimes ont été aussi commis dans les villages de Vrondus, Doudlu, et Rahovitza.

Pour l'assassinat de Covnitza aucune measure a été prise par l'autorité jusqu'à présent.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) ———.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

Letter in the "Pharos of Macedonia," dated from Stroumnitza, September $\frac{9}{21}$, 1881.

(Translation.)

THE truth is that the town of Stroumnitza has been reduced within the last few days to a state of siege, seeing that no one dare show his face outside without running considerable risk.

In the course of a fortnight no less than twelve persons have been captured by the brigands, and are now in their hands.

Their captors demand very large sums for the ransom of these victims, one of whom is the unfortunate son of M. D. Pappa-Moïses, and for whom they demand 500*l*. Last Tuesday (5th September), MM. Sekoula, father and son, of the village of Eleousa, were captured in broad daylight close to their village. On the 8th instant the Turk Osman, from the village of Thampila, while crossing the mountain stream Trakaina, was seized and made prisoner only a quarter-of-an-hour's distance from Stroumnitza.

This very morning a shepherd, a member of the Boyadji family, was found murdered near Banitza, half-an-hour's walk from this town.

If the brigands are to continue with the same unabated severity this system of capturing the inhabitants, the whole population of the district of Stroumnitza, consisting of 40,000, will have been captured. What will become of us if this sort of thing is to continue we really do not know. At present every inhabitant of this town sees himself predestined to die of starvation, since no one can, without running great risk, leave the town and devote himself to the cultivation of his fields or to the acquirement of the common necessaries of life. Our Ottoman fellow-citizens who are proprietors of landed estates are reduced to very great straits, they having been obliged to abandon their properties to the entirely unfettered disposition of unscrupulous bailiffs, who, seizing the opportunity thus afforded them, are robbing their masters, and aggravating to a still greater extent the present very bad state of affairs.

About three months ago the local Administrative Council decided on the formation of three irregular bodies of troops, consisting each of forty armed men, with a view to a better organized and a more systematic pursuit of the brigands. All the inhabitants readily undertook the maintenance of these men from their private resources. However, they had hardly left the town to make a tour, when they were recalled and set aside, only one "tchaoush" (sergeant), and he a man totally unfitted for so important a service, being left to patrol the country with a small following, more as a show than anything else. The reason of this change of plans must be sought for from the Kaïmakam, who hitherto has been unable to grasp the fact that by pursuing his present line of conduct he

is in reality contributing to the desolation of the country by this scourge of brigandage, and is exposing to the condemnation of foreigners and of the enemies of the Empire the real interests of the Imperial Government, of which the chief is surely the preservation of the lives and properties of the inhabitants.

As a matter of fact, the impracticability of any organized pursuit by means of the regular troops has been clearly proved over and over again, at all events in this part of the country.

The Imperial troops have always shown valour and an utter indifference to hardship in their conflicts with the brigands, but here they cannot effectually hunt down the brigands without the aid of irregular troops raised on the spot, for the simple reason that the brigands come down into the plains, commit some act of robbery, and then take refuge in the never-ending forests of the thickly-wooded slopes of Mount Orbelus, which extend from Stroumnitza to Melnik. In such places the regular army cannot operate. The brigands, making for their fastnesses, remain there in perfect security until the recollection of the recently committed act of brigandage begins to fade from men's minds, when, sallying forth again, they make a raid on either the Caza of Melnik or on Petritz, or on Malesi, or on Stroumnitza, from which districts the brigands will never be thoroughly extirpated as long as we persevere in the present ineffectual method adopted for their destruction. It is true we cannot suggest a better plan, and yet a very general conviction prevails to the effect that brigandage will only be thoroughly stamped out in these districts when at least ten battalions of regular troops shall have been stationed permanently in Stroumnitza, when the military operations now going on between Malesi, Melnik, Petritz, and Stroumnitza, shall be carried on with Stroumnitza as their base, when by means of a real military cordon connecting these four points a strict watch shall be kept to prevent the brigands escaping into the forests above mentioned, and finally, when Malesi shall be made administratively independent of Stroumnitza, or else converted into a Kaïmakamlik, dependent on Stroumnitza, which in that case would of necessity be converted into a Mutessariflik.

Inclosure 4 in No. 29.

Letter dated September $\frac{5}{17}$, 1881, *from a Correspondent at Korytza (Gjorteha) to the "Pharos of Macedonia."*

(Translation.)

TRULY heartrending are the crimes that are daily committed in the districts of Castoria, Korytza, and Premet. It is a month ago that brigandage has assumed a menacing aspect, and daily it increases in the intensity of its crimes and the number of its members.

I omit to mention the full details of the capture of five rich inhabitants of the village of Boyatzeo, who were set free within five days after the payment of 1,000 Turkish liras as ransom, and of the capture of four women from the village of Bohin, near Nasilitza. I shall pass on to more tragic facts.

In the village of Ghianoven, included in the district of Chroupista, twenty-five brigands pillaged the houses of the richest inhabitants, killed the Mukhtar, and captured four Turks who happened to be there as tax-collectors, whom they carried off to the mountains, together with four of the village Primates. The poor Turks were massacred, and for the ransom of the Primates the sum of 1,000 Turkish liras is demanded.

The brigands have also carried off the mules of some poor wood-cutters of the village of Drenotho, between Korytza and Darda; from the village of Tsgar, in the district of Premet, they have captured six peasants and three pupils of the school, whom they keep with them, demanding exorbitant ransoms for their release; in the village of Loupiska they pillaged two houses, the inmates of which, however, succeeded in escaping.

Again, between the villages of Bythokouki and Panurit, in the district of Korytza, the following tragedy has occurred:—

Eight days ago fifty brigands, under the Chief Shabin, fell upon some villagers of Trebiska, who were returning from the market of Korytza, and killed five Christians and three Turkish guards, and wounded seven more, whose state is precarious; to the same village, scarcely before the inhabitants buried their dead, letters were sent by another band demanding 600 Turkish liras, and threatening to burn it if the money were not paid. A similar demand was sent to other villages near Trebisku, and their inhabitants have in consequence barricaded themselves in their houses.

Only three days ago the Primates of the villages of Zitsista, Slimnitza, Jioressi-Kionlitza, and Synitza called on the Mutessarif (Governor) of Korytza and showed his

Excellency the letters they had received from the brigand chiefs, asking from every village 300 Turkish liras and two Martini rifles. The letters were read at the konak. All this is a most palpable proof of the terrible state of affairs. Indeed, no one can confidently affirm that he is free from danger, and no business can be transacted between the villages.

The Bishop of Castoria, while making a tour in his district of Colonia, has had a very narrow escape from the brigands, and owes his safety to the timely assistance of two Turkish Notables, Hafiz Bey and Rustem Bey. I cannot but publicly praise the efforts of this worthy Prelate in favour of the suffering Christians. He spoke with courage and firmness to the Governor and the Medjliss (of Korytza), telling them most frankly that they are responsible to the Sultan's Government for this shameful state of things. The answer of the Pasha to this courageous Bishop was that he had transmitted the above cases to the superior authorities and asked for a battalion of regular troops.

With a handful of soldiers brigandage cannot be effectually pursued. At this moment I am informed that 300 soldiers have arrived from Monastir.

This good Bishop has not only made representations, but succeeded in getting the authorities to arm the inhabitants and to release five Christians unjustly detained in prison at Castoria. He has also sent full reports on the situation to the Vali of Monastir and the Greek Patriarch of Constantinople; in one word, he has acted as a Prelate comprehending his sublime mission.

So deplorable is the state of the country in general, the brigands being armed with first-rate Martini rifles, that if the authorities do not take immediate and severe measures, keeping a sufficient force for the purpose, every district will be destroyed, for the bands may be called legions, and the conclusion is—what is the object of this Albano-brigandage?

Inclosure 5 in No. 29.

Letter published in the "Pharos of Macedonia."

(Translation.) *Alpstrati (in Sandjak of Serres), September* 22, 1881.

LAST week some—"Comitadjis" so called—Bulgarian insurgents broke into the house of the upright and noble-minded citizen M. Karomphezes (a Greek), and murdered him. Not content with this, they carried off with them to the mountains two of his sons, whom they literally cut to pieces.

Rumour says that it was an act of vengeance.

A somewhat similar affair has happened in a hamlet known as Smolenitza, where some brigands broke by night into a mill, and murdered the miller.

On the 15th instant, as a party of twelve persons, who had come to pay a devotional visit to the monastery, and had accomplished the object of their journey, were leaving the place, they were attacked and stripped by some brigands, whose nationality is at present unknown, who at the same time carried off their mules.

As soon as the travellers had recovered from their fright, they went in pursuit of the brigands, whom they followed right up to a defile of Mount Orbelus, where they came to a hand-to-hand conflict, routed their rascally opponents, and recovered their beasts.

Inclosure 6 in No. 29.

Paragraph in the "Seluuik" of September 16, 1881.

(Translation.)

A TELEGRAM has been received by the Governor-General from the Mutessarif of Serres, announcing that Dimitri, the brother of the Primate of Shoshendjé, and the peasants of the villages of Tarsova and Gradova, in the Caza of Djuma, in the Sandjak of Serres, who were captured the other day by Bulgarian brigands, and carried off to the mountains, have succeeded in effecting their escape, and reached their village homes. The Mutessarif adds that the brigands are hotly pursued.

No. 30.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

E

(No. 905.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1881.

IN a conversation the other day with Sir Alfred Sandison, the Prime Minister dwelt with some bitterness on the one-sided way in which the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin were being executed. In spite of the Sultan having made every sacrifice to fulfil the obligations imposed upon him, the representations of the Ottoman Ambassadors abroad, in regard to those portions of the Treaty which were favourable to Turkey, were treated with great indifference. The Danubian fortresses had not been demolished; the question of settling the Bulgarian tribute was kept in suspense; the Mussulmans resident both in Bulgaria and in Servia were still exposed to great injustice, especially in reference to their landed rights; and Greece had already commenced to give cause for complaint to the Mussulman inhabitants who had submitted to her rule in the hope of fair and impartial treatment.

His Highness added that this attitude on the part of the foreign Governments was having such a painful effect upon the Sultan's feelings, that it must not be a matter of surprise if there should be some hesitation on the part of His Majesty hereafter in meeting the wishes of the friendly Powers with a good grace.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 31.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

E

(No. 119.)

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 12, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 111 and 114, dated respectively the 27th September and 4th instant, relative to Albanian affairs, I have the honour to further report to your Lordship that the Pasha of Salonica received early this morning an official telegram from Prisrend stating that Dervish Pasha marched from that place yesterday morning for Dibra at the head of twenty battalions. The troops under Dervish Pasha are now entirely composed of regulars, a great part, if not the whole of them, from Anatolia. Thirteen of the battalions have been detached from the army corps of Thessaly and Epirus, and five from the division of Scodra.

I also hear that the Albanian Notable of Kulkandelen, Hassan Pasha, has been appointed Mutessarif of the Sandjak of Prisrend, in the room of Ferik Mehmed Pasha, recalled to Constantinople.

Dervish Pasha hopes to gratify and conciliate the Ghega Albanians by transferring the civil government of the country to their Chiefs; but I think this system of government will in the long run be attended with inconvenience, if not danger, for the Albanian Chiefs are capricious and not entirely to be depended upon; and I should add that neither Ali Pasha of Gusinjé, lately appointed Governor of the new Sandjak of Ipek, nor the above-named Hassan Pasha, have had any administrative experience.

Sualh Effendi, Vice-President of the League of Prisrend, and the notorious Tosca Albanian agitator Abdul Bey Phrassari, with several other individuals who were concerned in the late movement against the Government, have been exiled to Asia Minor.

Hadji Omer Effendi, the President of the League, is still at Dulcigno, and has claimed and obtained the protection of the Montenegrin Government; his family is detained at Salonica under police surveillance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 32.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
Salonica, October 12, 1881.

My Lord,

A MOSLEM inhabitant of Dibra, an acquaintance of Mr. Bizzo, the First Dragoman of this Consulate-General, arrived recently in Salonica, coming by rail from Dibra.

This man came to ask Mr. Bizzo's advice as to how he should remit the sum of £. T. 100 to Aleppo. He was charged to send the money to a certain Ali Riza Bey, a man of good family of Dibra, who has recently been banished to Aleppo by Dervish Pasha.

Mr. Bizzo told him that he did not as a rule mix himself up in such matters, but explained to him how he could send the money through the Imperial Ottoman Bank. Subsequently, in the course of conversation, Mr. Bizzo asked his visitor how matters were going on in Dibra. The other replied, but in confidence, that Dervish Pasha had written officially to the chief Ghega Albanians asking what their feelings were toward the Imperial Government, and whether they were inclined to show submission or not. They replied that they were all loyal subjects of the Sultan, and were ready to submit to every Imperial demand, except that of conscription, which they could not comply with, giving as their reason the smallness of their numbers, which they maintained were only just sufficient to protect their country.

Mr. Bizzo then asked what, in case the Government should not be satisfied with this reply, and should commence a system of coercion, course they would pursue. He replied that they would resist, and at the same time seek assistance from Italy.

Mr. Bizzo has also gathered from his informant that the hope of eventual assistance from Italy in such a contingency as that above described is firmly implanted in the breast of the Dibra Albanians, especially of the lower orders; and I should add that I have also heard from other sources that the native clergy of the Roman Catholic, or so-called Latin Albanians, of the districts between Prisrend and Scodra, many of whom have been educated in Italy, are carrying on a propaganda in that direction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 719.)
Foreign Office, October 21, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 845 of the 27th ultimo, informing me of the progress of the negotiations for the settlement of the claims of the principal British creditors of the Porte, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government have been glad to learn the success which has attended your Excellency's efforts in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22.)

(No. 23.)
Prevesa, October 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Lordship, translated copies of Mr. Kypriotis' despatches Nos. 73 and 74, which I forward by to-day's post to the Earl of Dufferin, relating to the unsatisfactory state of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Janina, September 30, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to communicate to you the following acts of brigandage:—

On Saturday last a peasant, named Phakanos, while escorting two women to his native village, Tzepelovon Zagori, was captured by brigands at a place called Bisiana, about six hours distant from Janina, and, when they were all robbed, the women were set free and he was carried away.

On Monday last the village of Molista, which is situated three hours distant from Conitza, was pillaged by brigands and two houses burnt.

On Wednesday last other brigands sacked four houses in the village of Paleokori, Zagori. It is said that these brigands were Turco-Albanians.

I take advantage, therefore, of the perpetration of these outrages to beg leave to relate to you briefly the state of the country.

According to the information supplied to me, the neighbourhood of Conitza alone is the head-quarters of six bands of brigands, whose Chiefs are Sulios, Gianulis Kerassovites, Katarakias, Gianulis Zermos, Giovanni Zoukes, and Morufas. These brigands commit various acts of brigandage whenever they find an opportunity, in consequence of which the country suffers immensely.

The duty of preventing the perpetration of these acts is intrusted to the "Movikat," who are soldiers only in name, being principally Albanian irregulars; and these men, whose duty is to restore order in the affected districts, on the contrary, commit the worst acts wherever they pass through. As an illustration of this, you will allow me to inclose herewith a list of the expenses incurred by the inhabitants of only one village, that of Proskofi, each time Gousbashi Tezoulah, of the "Movikat," passed through that village. I omit, for the sake of decency, other acts committed by them.

As to the soldiers belonging to the Hoodut, many of them turn brigands at night, and in daytime they openly and in numerous ways oppress the peasants, from whom they extort money under threat that they would otherwise accuse them of being harbourers of brigands.

It is impossible to prove those evils and lay them before the authorities, for he who would dare do so would next day be found murdered or his house burnt to the ground.

Another kind of oppression is carried on by the zaptiehs at certain periods. For instance, when a body of troops has to move from one place to another and transport animals are required to carry their baggage, the duty of requisitioning animals is intrusted to the zaptiehs, who by way of speculation, instead of requisitioning the number of animals actually required, requisition double and treble the number, and when those required have been secured the rest are set free as soon as a reward is given.

I am informed that the people, especially those along the Greek frontier, are so tired of these as well as of other criminal and outrageous acts, that they intend migrating to Greece.

The Government, which, nevertheless, is aware of it, seems unable to take some energetic step, and this, I hear, because the two chief authorities—the civil and the military—instead of acting together in suppressing the evil, are, on the contrary, at variance, and each one tries to soar above the other, the one because he occupies a civil post, and the other because he is the Commander of the troops, and has in his power the Military Tribunals, which he considers independent, and will, therefore, not allow the civil authority to interfere in the least. It is probable that other private differences may also exist between them of which I am not aware, but the truth is that, owing to this difference, the country suffers considerably.

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Mr. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)
Janina, October 5, 1881.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report the following tragic incident which took place in the evening of Sunday last:—

Twelve brigands entered the village of Vanista, situated on the opposite side of the

Lake of Janina. They besieged the house of the principal peasant, Christo Batsika by name, and, as he happened to be absent, three women who were inside the house began to cry out for help. The brigands forced their way into the house, and avenged themselves by murdering the three women, two of whom were pregnant, in a most brutal manner. It is said that these brigands were Hooduts, but up to the present moment nothing positive has been ascertained.

That same night another band of outlaws, said to have been Turco-Albanians, entered the village of Tsernio Zagori, and captured the wealthiest inhabitant, named Anagnosti, together with his daughter. They also plundered his house, as well as another.

(A detailed account of a quarrel between four Hooduts and a shoemaker at Janina, and which would have ended in the beating of the latter had not his workmen and others interfered, is here given, and I suppose that which induced Mr. Kypriotis to mention it is that he happened to be present, for he adds):—

"As I was an eye-witness of so unjust an act, humanity impelled me to call on the Vali, and, in a friendly way, represent to him this affair, as well as other evils. The Vali denied nothing, said I was right in making these representations, and added that, once that the Military Courts exist, all action is paralyzed; that he has telegraphed to Constantinople four times to be authorized to get out himself with a military force to pursue the brigands, but that he received no answer. This conversation ended, he ordered, in my presence, the arrest of the above Hooduts, but unfortunately they are still free. This shows how careless the Government is in punishing a soldier who is intrusted with the preservation of public peace and order."

I am, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

List of Expenses incurred by the Inhabitants of Proskoli.

(Translation.)

Date.		Number of Days spent there.	£ T.	Bread.	Cheese.	Bourek. (Pies.)	Sheep.	Braki.	Wine.
				Okes.	Okes.			Okes.	Okes.
1880. November	16 ..	2	3	35	12	8	3	21	63
,,	20 ..	8	113	305	33	52	22	63	140
December	20 ..	5	15	206	18	14	8	28	78
1881. January	6 ..	4	30	230	25	18	12	40	88
February	1 ..	5	2	302	22	15	8	15	85
March	5 ..	5	..	260	28	16	6	27	88
,,	31 ..	3	12	155	26	12	7	26	78
April	20 ..	4	..	260	25	16	12	28	60
May	12 ..	3	10	168	18	6	6	20	..
June	2 ..	3	25	240	24	8	8	24	..
September	1 ..	10	60	603	65	18	21	65	..
		58	51	610	150	..	14	65	..
		..	15*	350	60	..	32	..	..
Total	.. ..	..	258½	3,854	506	163	140	392	679

No. 35.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 23.)

(No. 906. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 13, 1881.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 899 of the 10th instant, relating the conversation in which Said Pasha had referred to the Council of Ministers as an impediment to the transaction of public business, I may mention that the decisions of this Council, of which the Prime Minister is only the President, have to be unanimous; but as anything but unanimity prevails amongst its members, who are all jealous of each other, and frequently combine against the First Minister, the difficulty of reaching a settlement on many matters becomes almost insurmountable. Even when a conclusion has been come to, it is not in the least binding upon the Sultan, who can put it on one side as *non avenue*.

* Extorted from shepherds.

In thus repeating to your Lordship the criticisms which Said Pasha has passed upon the manner in which the business of the country is conducted, I should, perhaps, add that amongst my colleagues there seems to be a strong conviction that his Highness exaggerates, or even misrepresents, the difficulties thrown in his way by his fellow Ministers and by the Sultan; and that, in truth, he himself is the principal obstacle to improvement and progress. I am not yet sufficiently acquainted with what takes place to know how far these impressions are correct. Even admitting that there may be some truth in them, there is no doubt that the principal cause of the dead-lock to which everything is coming is to be found at the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October* 15, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its four inclosures, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the persecution of native Protestants at Stroumnitza, and to my action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Salonica, October* 13, 1881.

YOUR Lordship will learn from the inclosed copy of a letter from the Reverend Mr. Jenney, a missionary of the American Board for Eastern Turkey, that the small community of native Protestants in the town of Stroumnitza, an important Bulgarian centre in Macedonia, are being persecuted at the instigation of the Greek Archbishop there.

Immediately the matter was brought under my notice by the above-named missionary I requested the Governor-General in a letter, of which the inclosed is a translated copy, to telegraphically direct the Sub-Governor of Stroumnitza to set free a certain Tané (who was imprisoned by the local authorities without a trial upon the alleged ground of having used offensive language to the Archbishop), and to afford protection to the native Protestants from further persecution.

His Excellency at once complied with the above request, and kindly favoured me with a copy of his telegraphic instructions, of which the following is a translation:—

"*Salonica, September* 29.

"To the Kaïmakam, Stroumnitza.

"Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General informs me that some of the inhabitants of Stroumnitza who have embraced the Protestant faith have on that account been persecuted by the Greek Archbishop, and have been imprisoned through the instrumentality of the Local Government, mentioning in particular one of them, a man of the name of Tané, who at the present moment is in gaol. He requests me to put a stop to this state of things.

"Seeing that conduct which is directly opposed to the free and unshackled exercise of religious convictions is altogether unjustifiable, should any man be in prison for such a reason as this (*i.e.*, on religious grounds), I demand his instant release, and a full explanation of the affair.

(Signed) "HASSAN TAHSIN, *Vali*."

In the meantime the Rev. Mr. Jenney returned to Stroumnitza to attend personally to the matter, and the day after his arrival there I received a telegram from him, informing me that Tané was still detained in prison. I thereupon addressed a further representation to the Governor-General, in reply to which his Excellency informed me that the Sub-Governor of Stroumnitza had reported that the individual in question was imprisoned, not on religious grounds, but because he made use of offensive language to

the Greek Archbishop, and that he (the Sub-Governor) had no power to interfere in a case which was before the local Court.

I inclose translated copies of the above correspondence (Nos. 3 and 4).

On receipt of the Governor-General's letter I called upon him, and got him to address a communication on the subject to the Inspector of Tribunals, Houssein Sadr-ed-deen Effendi, an upright and liberal-minded man, which communication I presented myself to that official, who, upon my explaining to him all the circumstances of the case, then and there wrote out a telegram for the President of the Court of First Instance at Stroumnitza, urging him to release Tané, and calling for a Report on the case.

The following is a translation of the above telegram:—

"The President of the Bedayet (Court of First Instance), Stroumnitza.

"*Salonica, October* 6, 1881.

"I am given to understand, from some correspondence which has passed between the Governor-General and the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza, that some persons have been put under arrest on a charge of using offensive language to the Greek Archbishop of that town. I have also been informed that a certain Tané has been in prison on this charge for eleven days.

"Seeing that it is not irregular[a] or proper that people should be imprisoned on such a charge without trial or sentence, if the statement I have received be correct, I urge the immediate release of this man Tané, and conformity with the legal procedure in carrying through the case. At the same time, I should wish for a Report of how the matter stands as soon as possible.

(Signed) "Houssein Sadr-ed-Deen,
"*Inspector of Justice.*"

With a view to lose no time I took the above telegram to the telegraph office, and saw it wired off. This was late on Thursday evening, the 6th instant; the following day the man was released.

I am greatly indebted to the Governor-General and the Inspector of Tribunals for the very courteous and prompt manner in which they have carried out my suggestions in this affair, and I told them I would not fail to report my sense of their conduct to your Excellency.

As, however, I gather from the missionary Jenney, and from other sources, that the Greek clergy and community of Macedonia are determined to give "no rest or repose" to the natives who embrace Protestantism, I would suggest that the Sublime Porte should be moved to take some notice of the unjustifiable proceedings of the Archbishop and authorities of Stroumnitza in the above case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

The Rev. E. M. Jenney to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, October 11, 1881.

Dear Sir,

MAY I be permitted to solicit your careful consideration of the following statements?

Through the private reading of the Scriptures, unaided by the presence of any missionary, or any other human agency than booksellers, a number of men in Stroumnitza were led to embrace the faith called "Evangelical," or Protestant. This work was gradual, covering many years. So strong had this Protestant element become, that the Greek Bishop of Stroumnitza became alarmed. His first effort was to accuse Messrs. Stavri and Boshen of being insurrectionists, hoping that, should he exile these leaders, fear would keep his flock in check. After a year's confinement in Salonica and Constantinople, through the interposition of Her Britannic Majesty's Consuls and others, they were set at liberty. These men, on being set free, held services in Stroumnitza, and many more believed in the Protestant faith. The Greek Bishop publicly announced in church, some seven or eight weeks ago, that he gave permission to the wife of any man who attended Protestant services to divorce her husband, and a like permission to the husband of any woman should his wife attend Protestant services. The wife of one, Tané, was induced by the Bishop to leave her husband, he (the Bishop) promising a divorce. On the morning

[a] *Qy.* regular.

of the 9th September (o.s.) said Tané was taken by force to the Bishop's head-quarters, and the following is the conversation, as given to me in writing under Tané's own signature. The statement is directed to me, and translated is as follows:—

"Mr. Jenney, behold! I give you my work more particularly. On the 9th September (o.s.), as my wife was at the house of the Bishop early, as I was at work in my shop, there came from the Metropolia M. Ekonomo alone, and said, 'Come to the Metropolia, for your wife wishes to divorce you.' But I answered, 'I am not of the Metropolia, neither can I go.' After fifteen minutes another man came with a zaptieh and took me to the Usbashi, and from there to the Bishop at the Metropolia. As they led me into the meeting, one said to me, 'Why do you not kiss the Bishop's hand?' I replied, 'I do not kiss the Bishop's hand.' The Bishop said, 'Your wife has a suit against you for you to divorce her.' I replied, 'I cannot divorce my wife. Why should I divorce her?' The Bishop replied, 'Because you do not go to church.' (I do not go to church.) 'Because you do not kiss "echonas," and do not light candles.' I replied, 'I do not light candles or kiss "echonas."' 'You do not recognize the Church?' 'I do not know what Church. To us Christ is the Church. The Bishop said, 'Have you come here to judge us?' and jumped up and told the zaptieh to take me to gaol.

(Signed) "Tané Stamen."

The zaptieh, in private conversation with others (not with me), said that this was the language used.

The helpless Protestants sent on for me, and I arrived two days after Tané's imprisonment in Stroumnitza. I at once demanded the release of Tané until condemned by legal trial, and the Kaïmakam released him at once. Sabbath evening a zaptieh came from the Usbashi for Tané, but I refused to give him up without an order for Tané's arrest from the Kaïmakam, for the zaptieh said that this was an order from the Bishop. Monday morning the zaptieh told me that the Kaïmakam wished to talk with Tané, so I, of course, did not oppose. But this was false, the Kaïmakam having left the city early that morning. The Usbashi, through this foul means, secured Tané, and without a word threw him into prison. The following Wednesday, the Government paying no attention to me, being perfectly helpless when I spoke, but all-powerful when the Bishop gave an order, I came to Salonica and presented my case to you, which you heartily attended to, and was so successful that in a few hours secured an order for freedom to Protestants and the release of Tané.

I returned to Stroumnitza, but found Tané in gaol, the Government claiming that the case had gone before the judicial authorities and must take its course. Security was refused for the prisoner. Last Friday I received a telegram from you announcing that Tané was free, and in two hours he was let out of prison.

The Usbashi, however, refused to obey the order from Salonica unless he, Tané, secured security that he would not leave the city. Mr. Stavri was his security. On Sabbath evening Mr. Stavri was told to sign a "semett" that, should Tané be condemned on trial, he, Stavri, would pay the Bishop 4 liras for disrespect to the Bishop. I refused to allow this. Then they threatened to throw Tané in prison. I warned them to count the cost.

Thus matters stood yesterday, the 10th instant. Last Thursday the Bishop and his corps of advisers boasted that the English Consul was helpless, and could not secure the freedom of Tané. In their triumphant glee they boasted that they had planned for the exile of Mr. Stavri as a rebel. Tané was to be exiled as a corrupter of the peace after he had lain ninety-one days in gaol for his impudence towards the Bishop. In short, the Bishop's councillors were planning to wipe out Protestantism with one grand sweep. The Bishop and his party were happy, and the Protestants trembled.

Your telegram reversed the sadness and joy. Last Sabbath the Bishop secured the names of twelve men who declare that Tané did insult the Bishop, and again the Greek party boasted that they had great deeds to perform.

Since you have so grandly aided thus far, may I ask you to finish this work which the Lord has given you to do.

1. Please secure an order from the Pasha for the recognition of the rights of Protestants in this vilayet. That no one be allowed to interfere with anyone holding the Protestant faith as far as concerns their faith.

2. That all preachers and teachers of the so-called Protestant faith should be unmolested.

3. All booksellers sent out by Protestant Societies shall have freedom in selling the Scriptures and religious books. That three special permissions be granted the booksellers

now in the field; I refer to Kestó, the man from Uskup, and our man, Nikóla Petrov. That the authorities of the different cities and towns of this vilayet be required, on application, to give a special burial-ground to any Protestant or Protestants residing in that particular place.

Thanking you heartily for your timely and very effectual aid, and praying that the Lord, who has promised to aid the oppressed, may assist you in securing freedom for Protestants in Macedonia, I remain, &c.

(Signed) E. M. JENNEY,
Missionary of the American Board for Eastern Turkey.

Inclosure 3 in No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to Tahsin Pasha.

(Translation.) *Salonica, September* 29, 1881.

IT having been recently reported that some of the inhabitants of Stroumnitza who had embraced the Protestant faith were persecuted on that account by the Greek Archbishop, who in fact had had them imprisoned through the instrumentality of the Local Government, an American missionary residing at Monastir went to Stroumnitza to make inquiries into the matter, and, if possible, to put a stop to the persecution.

He has found on examination and informed me that this report was correct, and that a man of the name of Tané was then actually undergoing imprisonment.

As these proceedings involve a violation of religious freedom, I beg you will promptly give directions telegraphically that they be put a stop to.

Inclosure 4 in No. 36.

Consul-General Blunt to Tahsin Pasha.

(Translation.) *Salonica, October* 2, 1881.

YOUR Excellency will remember that on the 29th instant I addressed an official communication to you relative to the persecution and imprisonment inflicted by the Greek Archbishop of Stroumnitza on some persons who had embraced the Protestant faith, and mentioning more especially the case of a certain Tané, who was at that time in prison, asking for his release, and begging that this system of persecution might be promptly put a stop to. On the receipt of my letter your Excellency communicated with the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza, giving him instructions on the subject.

I was therefore much astonished at receiving the inclosed telegram from the American missionary, Mr. Jenney, who went to Stroumnitza last Saturday to attend to the matter, in which he states that nothing has been done, and that the said Tané is at the present moment in gaol. As the neglect of the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza to comply with your orders is prejudicial to the early settlement of this affair, I hasten to request your Excellency to repeat your orders to that official for the prompt release of Tané, and I hope I shall not have occasion to trouble you on this subject again.

Inclosure 5 in No. 36.

Tahsin Pasha to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.) *Salonica, October* 5, 1881.

ON the receipt of your esteemed note of the 29th September, referring to the persecution by the Greek Archbishop of Stroumnitza of certain of the inhabitants of that town who had made profession of the Protestant faith, and of their being imprisoned through the instrumentality of the Local Government, and stating in particular the case of a certain Tané whom you alleged to be at that moment in gaol, and concluding by your expressing a hope that I would put a stop to all such persecution for the future, and at the same time order the release of Tané. On the receipt of your letter, I repeat, I communicated with the Kaïmakam of Stroumnitza. It appears from the reply which I have received that this man is not in prison for any matters connected with religion, but for having made use of offensive language to the Archbishop. He was imprisoned by an

order of the Court of First Instance after a preliminary investigation by the "Juge d'Instruction."

This being so, the case is under the immediate control of the Law Courts.

No. 37.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October* 17, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla relative to the state of the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Dr. Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

M. le Consul-Général, *Cavalla, le 9 Octobre,* 1881.

EN réponse à votre dépêche, j'ai l'honneur de vous donner les informations suivantes :—

Dans le Caza de Cavalla, la sûreté publique est parfaite.

Dans le Sandjiak de Drama, en général, la tranquillité est parfaite aussi, mais, de temps en temps, on a eu à déplorer des attentats à la propriété et des vols isolés; mais non par des bandes organisées.

Dans les Cazas de Nevrocop, Djuma, et autres localités du Sandjiak de Serres qui se rapprochent des confins Bulgares, les vols et les assassinats seraient à l'ordre du jour.

Voici l'extrait d'une lettre de mon correspondant de Nevrocop :—

"Les nouvelles sur la sûreté publique de ce caza ne sont pas agréables. On entend de tous les côtés que des vols et assassinats, et nos Tribunaux sont tout à fait paralysés. Les honnêtes gens espèrent que le Gouvernement s'empressera de réparer cet état de choses."

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) Dr. PECCHIOLI.

No. 38.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October* 18, 1881.

THE inclosed letters from Monastir, as published in the "Levant Herald" of the 22nd ultimo and 14th instant, confirm the information I furnished in my Report No. 116 of the 7th instant on the subject of the prevalence of brigandage in that part of Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 38.

Letter from Monastir published in the "Levant Herald" of September 22, 1881.

Monastir, September 14, 1881.

THE captive of Katarrachia, of whom I made mention in my last letter, has been set at liberty some ten days ago near Veria, against a ransom of £ T. 10 paid by his father, who was obliged to follow up the band at a distance in order to recover his son.

On Sunday, the 11th instant, four Mussulmans, lying in wait on the road which leads for Monastir to Crouchovo, attacked a caravan composed of some thirty men who were

coming to this town. One man was killed, and another seriously wounded. The reason assigned for this wanton outrage, it is stated, was a desire on the part of the assailants to try the range of their rifles.

The state of affairs is no better in the Province of Castoria. The band of brigands commanded by Broufo, not content with having carried off four prisoners some days since from the village of Bogatzico, has just sent in a letter to the inhabitants demanding fifteen costumes embroidered in gold, and threatening, in case the demand is not complied with, the destruction of the village by fire. The unfortunate villagers have sent this letter to the authorities of Castoria, begging them to give their case the most earnest attention. But the latter are unable to render any assistance, not having any military force at their disposition.

Another band invaded Touzeli, a village situated in the district of Chroupista, and carried off into captivity five Christians, of whom two were natives and the other three from Bourboutzico. One of the latter, having succeeded in eluding the vigilance of his guards, made his escape and fled to the town of Castoria. There, however, contrary to all expectation, he was put under arrest and closely examined as to how he had managed to make his escape from the hands of the brigands.

It is reported that the bands of Caloghero, of Katarachia, and of Caranaoum have lately been seen passing through the district of Couresta, taking with them six prisoners, of whom four are Mussulmans and two Christians.

With regard to Davéli, some say that he has given himself up to the Commission for the Delimitation of the Turco-Greek Frontier, and that he has been appointed by it Kirserdar of the territory in Thessaly not ceded, and that there is associated with him another brigand named Stoupa. But, according to others, after a violent combat near Janina with the regular troops, he has directed his march towards Conitza.

Inclosure 2 in No. 38.

Letter from Monastir published in the "Levant Herald" of October 14, 1881.

Monastir, September 28, 1881.

ON Thursday last, the 22nd instant, his Excellency the Mushir Ahmed Eyoub Pasha, the Vali of this province, left Monastir for Kalliari, whence he is to visit the districts of Kastoria, Kozan, Anasselitza, and Servia. It is to be hoped that the journey undertaken by his Excellency to these places will be efficacious in the re-establishment of order and public tranquillity, and that his presence will stir up the local authorities to be more assiduous and energetic in the repression of brigandage.

The contemplated tour of inspection is very necessary, and the Government must be congratulated for having taken these measures in order to re-establish public security, which has latterly become almost extinct, especially in South Macedonia. Unfortunately, the news received from Kastoria confirms the reports as to the state of the country. Bands of highwaymen continue to plunder the mountain countries, and small bands of Albanians prey upon the lowlands. These last surpass the others in audacity, for large parties of them have advanced close to the gates of the town of Kastoria. Bands of marauders in the village districts have imposed ransoms upon the Christian villages of Yamrovéni, Zetista, Yissiraki, Sinitzi, and others. They have captured six of the well-to-do inhabitants of Nestranis, and three of those of Moresintza, of which village they had previously killed a Christian and wounded the Albanian tithe collector for having reported their arrival in the neighbourhood. From Zambourdéni two Mussulman women were carried off. Three peasants followed the band out of curiosity to ascertain the fate of the women, but the band cured the peasants of their inquisitiveness by killing one of them, and then releasing the captive ladies.

Threatening letters have been received by several well-to-do inhabitants, as also by the Beys, of Kastoria. The brigands demand supplies of clothing, boots, Martini rifles, cartridges, and sulphate of quinine. Kiazim Bey has been asked for 1,500 Martini cartridges, of which, it is said, he has felt compelled to send a part, fearing that, if he did not do so, all his flocks of sheep and goats upon Mount Grammos would be "lifted." The local authorities, it appears, got wind of the affair, but as they could not protect the flocks from the threatened raid, thought it prudent not to prevent the supply of cartridges being sent.

Besides the battalion of Redifs established in the town of Kastoria, a half battalion of the line has also arrived there and has been placed in proper positions; but, until last week, no conflict had occurred between the troops and the brigands except a skirmish with two Albanian bands, in which two brigands fell.

Last week, an ambuscade of miscreants near the village of Dragoshe, situated between Florina and Monastir, killed the priest of that village whilst on his way back to it with others of the village. The murder of this ecclesiastic, a good and revered person, has caused great emotion in this town, and it is to be hoped that the local authorities of Monastir will bestir themselves to discover the murderers.

No. 39.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 929.)

Therapia, October 21, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 910 of the 14th instant, in which I noted the representations it was agreed between my colleagues and myself should be made to the Porte regarding the desirability of supplementing the impending deficit in the Cretan revenues, I have the satisfaction of stating that the Turkish Government has agreed to surrender one-half of the customs duties of the island to the Cretan Administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 40.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 724.)

Foreign Office, October 26, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 855 of the 3rd instant respecting the present unsatisfactory state of the Island of Crete, and informing me that you had brought the subject to the notice of your colleagues, and that it had been agreed that an opportunity should be taken of pressing the matter upon the Porte, and I have to state to you that your Excellency's proceedings in the matter are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 41.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 121. Confidential.)

Cettinjé, October 14, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 110, Confidential, of the 16th ultimo, on the subject of the abstention from all participation by Montenegrins in the outrages which have taken place in the Herzegovina, on the borders of the Principality, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed that it having been ascertained beyond doubt that some Montenegrins had recently consorted with the Herzegovina robber bands, Prince Nicholas directed their arrest and imprisonment.

Although the Austrian Government appear to have been satisfied with the action thus taken by His Highness, I have strong reasons for believing that the Montenegrins who are now undergoing their term of imprisonment are not likely to understand that they have met with the disapproval of their Prince.

In fact, I observe a great change in the tone prevailing in Cettinjé since I wrote my last Report on the 16th ultimo; and now, instead of the Herzegovinians who have taken to the mountains being called brigands as before, they are raised to the rank of most popular patriots, who are capable of resisting the Austro-Hungarian Administration as long as it remains present in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 733.)
Foreign Office, October 29, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 690 of the 15th August last, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter which has been addressed to Mr. Gladstone by M. Paschides, on behalf of the Christian merchants of Janina now imprisoned in Constantinople,* and I have to request that your Excellency will inform me whether the sentences passed on these persons have been commuted in accordance with the assurances given by Assim Pasha on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 43.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 148.)
Sophia, October 17, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Varna, reporting that the Turkish landowners in his district have not yet been able to obtain possession of their property which has been occupied by Bulgarian immigrants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Varna, October 7, 1881.

Sir,

IT is now a year ago since I had the honour of last reporting, on the 9th October, 1880, upon the subject of Bulgarian immigrants having settled down in various Mussulman villages, and remaining there to the prejudice of their rightful owners.

This state of things still continues, although, to save appearances, the Government has occasionally named Commissions, who have issued orders for the intruders to restore to the Turkish owners their property, but these behests have been laughed to scorn or ignored by the Bulgarian immigrants, while the Government has never endeavoured to impose by force its authority over the offenders.

All complaints and petitions presented to the local authorities by the Turkish sufferers are allowed to glide into oblivion without their being attended to.

In this district there are about seventeen or eighteen villages which have been forcibly occupied in this way; thus, for instance, Indjé-Keui had originally one Christian and 8 Mussulman houses, now 24 Bulgarian families have been located there; at Pasha-Keui, originally counting 28 Mussulman houses, about 35 Bulgarian families have quartered themselves; and at Gueunalsi, where formerly there were 50 Mussulman families, there now remain but 20 or 22, supplemented, however, by about 60 immigrant Bulgarian families.

It is perfectly certain that unless the central authority at Sophia does not make its orders respected as regards this question, the local authorities will never take the initiative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

---

* M. Paschides, October 1, 1881 (to Mr. Gladstone).

No. 44.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 129.)
Belgrade, October 19, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the reply which I have sent to the letter of the Turkish proprietors of the $\frac{21st\ September}{3rd\ October}$, of which a copy was transmitted by Mr. Mason to Lord Tenterden on the 10th instant, and in which they complained (unjustly, as far as Her Majesty's Government and this Legation are concerned,) that their representations as to the application of the Agrarian Law have remained unheeded and unnoticed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Mr. Locock to Melik Bey and others.

Belgrade, le 19 Octobre, 1881.

Messieurs,

PAR votre lettre du $\frac{21\ Septembre}{3\ Octobre}$, qui m'attendait à mon retour de Londres, vous me faites l'observation que les plaintes que vous avez adressées à plusieurs reprises aux Légations des Grandes Puissances sont restées non seulement sans aucune suite, mais encore sans aucune réponse, et que le Gouvernement Serbe a été encouragé par ce silence à commettre des actes d'injustice.

Je vous prie, Messieurs, de croire que cette plainte ne peut aucunement s'appliquer avec justice à la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique. Je ne vois aucun de vos noms sur la seule communication écrite qui ait été adressée auparavant à cette Légation—communication dont la réception fut, du reste, accusée verbalement aux pétitionnaires par l'intermédiaire du Commissaire Ottoman pour le Vacouf à Nisch.

Il serait non moins inexact de dire que le Gouvernement Princier ait été encouragé dans les procédés dont vous vous plaignez par le silence de la Légation de Sa Majesté Britannique, vu que depuis longtemps elle s'est occupée de cette question, et que son action, ainsi que celle du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté et de son Ambassadeur à Constantinople, sont des faits parfaitement connus du Gouvernement du Prince.

Quant à vos observations au sujet d'une requête que vous dites avoir adressée il y a quelques mois aux Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances, je dois ajouter qu'une pétition fut, en effet, adressée cet été au Comte Granville, Secrétaire d'Etat de Sa Majesté pour les Affaires Etrangères, et qu'une réponse de la part de sa Seigneurie fut communiquée plus tard par le Vice-Consul d'Angleterre à Nisch à une députation des pétitionnaires, qui se rendit au Vice-Consulat pour la recevoir.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 45.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 131.)
Belgrade, October 22, 1881.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Envoy here having requested that the verbal promises recently made to him by the Prince and the Servian Government of the immediate payment of the sums adjudged due to the Mussulman proprietors by the Servian tenants for the expropriation of their lands should be placed on record, the Minister for Foreign Affairs is about to address a note to His Excellency in that sense, a copy of which will be sent to the Servian Diplomatic Agents abroad, for communication to those Powers which were represented at the Berlin Congress.

M. Mijatovich informed me confidentially this evening that it is not improbable that the note will also contain an invitation to the Albanians who fled from, or were driven from, the present Servian territory during the late war, and who have since been in the habit of making raids from the other side of the Turkish frontier, where they have been living, to return to their former lands and villages, which the Government will undertake to see peacefully delivered back to them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 46.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 940.)
Therapia, October 25, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I received yesterday a telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, stating that an official telegram had been sent by Dervish Pasha to the effect that, after some slight opposition from the mountaineers of Souma, his troops have occupied the Province of Dibra, and that the Albanian Chiefs of that province have solemnly promised to pay the taxes and submit to the conscription, and to the taking of the census.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 47.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 941.)
Constantinople, October 25, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 600 of the 24th July, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli announcing that the Turkish authorities in Macedonia have formally extended their authority over the twenty-four unceded villages of the Rhodope.

I venture to add that it is perhaps a good thing that the Turkish Government should have done so, as they can now be called upon to make a formal act of surrender.

I am in communication with my colleagues on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

Philippopoli, October 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the accompanying translation of a Report sent to the Prefect of Philippopoli by Mehmed Bey, Roumelian Bailli of Rouptchos, to the effect that the Kaïmakam of Nevrokop, in Turkish territory, visited the unceded districts of the Rhodope about a month since, and having examined the fiscal accounts of the same, gave orders that the revenues should, for the future, be paid into the provincial chest at Nevrokop. He likewise appointed a Mudir for the district in question, and certain minor officials, as tax-gatherers, &c., thus formally bringing the villages back under Turkish jurisdiction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Mehmed Bey to the Prefect of Philippopoli.

(Traduction.)
Le 24 Septembre, 1881.

M. le Préfet,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance, aux fins que vous jugerez opportunes, que d'après le rapport d'un exprès, envoyé dans les villages insoumis, le Caïmacam de Nevrocop y était allé il y a dix jours, et après avoir vérifié les comptes et ordonné que l'on envoyât dorénavant les recettes à la Caisse gouvernementale à Nevrocop, il a nommé un certain Vidinli au poste de Mudir des susdits villages, ainsi que quelques indigènes aux fonctions de Contrôleur de la Perception des Impôts de Kir Agassi, et des gendarmes.

Bref, M. le Caïmacam a nommé et installé tout le personnel nécessaire à l'administration d'un canton, après quoi il est retourné dans le chef-lieu de son sandjiak, de sorte que les villages en question ont déjà passé sous l'administration des autorités Ottomanes.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Bailli,
(Signé) MEHMED BEY.

No. 48.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received October 30.)

(No. 943.)
Constantinople, October 25, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 915 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from the "Turquie," announcing the arrival of a German Mission of Exploration in the East.

The object of this Mission is said to be the establishment of German Colonies in Turkey, and the encouragement of trade with Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Extract from "La Turquie" of October 24, 1881.

JEUDI passé est arrivé dans notre ville, à bord d'un bateau spécial, une mission Allemande composée d'ingénieurs, de géologues, de commerçants, et d'industriels.

Cette mission fait un voyage d'exploration en Orient. Elle a passé par Athènes, visité une partie de la Grèce ; elle s'est rendue ensuite à Salonique, d'où elle vient en dernier lieu, pour se rendre plus tard en Asie.

Les membres de cette mission font partie d'une Société à la tête de laquelle se trouve M. Leevis, un riche industriel de Cologne. Le capital nominal de cette Société est de 50 millions de marks, dont le quart est déjà souscrit.

D'après nos informations, cette Société se propose d'établir, sur une vaste échelle, un courant de transactions de tout genre entre l'Orient et l'Allemagne. En ce moment la mission qu'elle a envoyée dans nos contrées étudiera le genre d'opérations qu'il conviendrait le mieux d'entreprendre, quels sont les produits Allemands qui trouveraient un débouché facile en Orient, quelles industries il serait avantageux d'instituer dans ces pays, et enfin quels sont les articles dont l'importation en Allemagne rencontrerait un placement lucratif.

A propos de cette mission, on a parlé de Colonies Allemandes à établir en Turquie. Nous ignorons jusqu'à quel point cette rumeur est fondée. Quoi qu'il en soit, il n'y aurait rien d'étonnant que l'on cherchât à tourner vers l'Orient une partie de l'émigration qui se dirige en Amérique. Les statisques Allemandes constatent que dans une période de dix ans, depuis 1871 jusqu'à 1880, la population de l'Allemagne, de 37,500,000 âmes, chiffres ronds, s'est accrue jusqu'à 40,000,000, sans compter que dans ces dix ans il y a eu une émigration de 1,500,000 âmes. Ces chiffres peuvent faire présager que l'on songerait à porter le courant de cette émigration vers l'Orient.

No. 49.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received October 31.)

(No. 426. Confidential.)
(Extract.)
Berlin, October 29, 1881.

I HAVE reason to believe that the Sultan continues to appeal to the German Government for military instructors in addition to the financial officials already sent to His Majesty in July 1880, as mentioned in my Reports Nos. 302, 312, 313, 314, and 377 of the 14th and 17th July, and 19th August, 1880.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

From your Lordship's despatch to me No. 431 of the 24th July, 1880, I learnt that the German Ambassador in London had assured your Lordship that, so long as the then existing state of anxiety continued in Europe, and that there was any apprehension that the Porte would persist in making difficulties in carrying out the Berlin settlement, Prince Bismarck would not countenance the realization of the Sultan's request for military instructors.

His Majesty appears to think that, having dispelled those apprehensions by carrying out the advice of the Powers, there can now be no further objection to the dispatch of the German military instructors from Berlin to Constantinople he is so desirous of obtaining from the German Government for the improvement of his army.

×